

# The Ryedale Historian

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## EDITOR

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John McDonnell, M.A., B.Litt.

## Editor's Note

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The rate at which copies of the first Ryedale Historian sold has been agreeably surprising. We even had to have a reprint - of which, incidentally, some copies remain (at five shillings), in case any new readers of this issue want to see what they missed in the first one.

Number One has travelled as far afield as California and Australia, and apart from the statutory copies which have to be deposited with the British Museum and other national collections in this country, we also had a request from the Library of Congress in Washington for the donation of a copy. This we hastened to comply with, while telling ourselves firmly that it does not necessarily put us on the same level as Mr. GROUCHO MARX, who has likewise made that Library a recent donation.

Number Two contains one or two new features which we hope will be welcome. Though it will put the price up slightly, we felt justified in increasing the size of print, and in including a number of photographs. Also, in response to readers' suggestions, we are printing a few details about our various contributors, mostly provided by themselves.

Perhaps at this point we might draw readers' attention to the first item in the Notes and Queries section, where they will find an invitation to collaborate in a survey sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. This concerns a rather fascinating aspect of what is now termed 'Industrial Archaeology', and we do urge all readers - especially local ones - to consider seriously whether they can contribute something useful, either out of their own knowledge or by undertaking to find out the information required. We hope to include a report on the progress of the survey in a future issue.

We also welcome new contributors. Mrs. G. STAINTHORPE has done a great deal of fieldwork and research, with Mr. GEORGE HARLAND and on her own, in the neighbourhood of her home in Glaisdale, and we are glad to have the chance to publish a short account of one of their most interesting finds. Mr. R. T. JEFFFREE is a prime example of how the publication of local history material makes us new friends and broadens our horizons. (We also have correspondents in Canada and the U.S.A. who are descended from local families, and we hope soon to publish some of the fruits of their genealogical researches.) Mr. BRYAN WAITES is already well known to readers of the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal and other publications as an expert on medieval economic history. Mr. A. L. PACITTO is a field archaeologist of growing reputation as well as a pillar of the Helmsley and District Group, and his excavation at Rudland Close, though producing nothing dramatic in the way of treasure trove, has revealed the site of a large building with most unusual features, and is likely to make a considerable contribution to historians' understanding of rural economy in the Middle Ages.

It is largely due to Mr. PACITTO, too, that our group has at

last formed a Fieldwork Section. A note on its first year of life follows this editorial. But the Editor (who is also for his sins, acting secretary of the section) would like to add here that new members are most welcome - and that those under 21 pay no subscription but rank as full members of the Group. We are very anxious to build up this 'executive arm' of the Group, and all you need do is drop a post-card to the Editor - address below.

We would also add our own word of thanks to that amiable bunch of young people who came from various parts of England last year to dig at Rudland Close, and to whom we are delighted to send complimentary copies of this issue as a memento of their sterling efforts and a token of our appreciation.

Our thanks and best wishes go with Miss A. S. DILLEY, whose departure abroad means the closure of Off-Lit Typing Services, and who dealt so admirably with the printing of the first Number.

The Editor owes a special gratitude to Mr. G. O. FOX for his untiring help in checking references.

Lastly - coming back to where we began - we also thank most heartily all readers who have made Number Two possible by buying Number One: long may you all find it worthwhile continuing the process.

JOHN McDONNELL  
1, Church Street,  
Helmsley,  
York.

Note: Postal applications and other correspondence concerning copies of either issue should be addressed to G. W. ALLENBY, Esq., 22, Station Road, Helmsley, York.

#### MORE ABOUT Mr. HAROLD WILSON'S FOREBEARS

The Editor has received a complimentary copy of Family History, the Journal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, for November 1965, containing the final findings on "The Ancestry of Mr. Harold Wilson". Messrs. C. R. Humphery-Smith and Michael G. Heenan have unearthed a plethora of Wilsons in Ryedale from the Fifteenth Century onwards, and have managed so to reduce them to order that the line of descent is certain from the 17th Century, and reasonably clear for two hundred years before that. They print documentation in the form of wills, extracts from church registers, etc., and so build up a most convincing picture of how this country's third Labour Prime Minister has sprung from a long line of Ryedale yeomen.

Copies of the November issue of Family History are obtainable from the Institute at Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, price ten shillings.

**Raymond H. Hayes, M.B.E.**

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As Chairman of the Helmsley Group of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, I was delighted to see the name of our esteemed member, Raymond Hayes, in the New Year Honours List, and I desire on behalf of the Group, to offer him our most sincere congratulations on becoming a Member of the Order of the British Empire. The outstanding archaeological work of Mr. Hayes has long been recognised in this area, and that it is now acknowledged on a national basis will be a source of great satisfaction to his many friends.

THEODORE NICHOLSON, Chairman.

**Fieldwork Section**

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During 1965, a fieldwork section was formed within the Group to encourage members to carry out practical work. No subscription is charged, and anyone may join. The objects are historical and archaeological research, and especially the recording of anything of interest about the town of Helmsley, its vicinity, and Ryedale generally. Practical work will range from plain hard digging to the recording of anecdotes of folk history.

Committee members are: J. N. Grayson, Helmsley.

R. H. Hayes, Hutton-le-Hole.

G. H. Ingham, Nunnington.

Convener: A. L. Pacitto, Castlegate, Helmsley.

Acting Secretary: J. McDonnell, Helmsley.

The first project tackled by the section was the excavation of the 'house' site at Rudland Close (see Interim Report in this issue). This was carried out under the direction of the writer, who would like to take this opportunity of thanking the enthusiastic volunteers who gave their time so willingly, on this as on earlier occasions. Their names are listed below:

Miss S. Arbor (E. Molessey, Surrey), Misses E. M. Holgreaves and J. Abett (Tadcaster), Miss B. Leach (Walton-on-Thames), Misses A. and H. F. Robinson (Halifax), Miss H. Roughton (N. Ferriby), Mr. A. Havercroft (Hull), Mr and Mrs. W. L. Luetkens (Bonn, W. Germany), Mr. D. Munns (Leicester), Mr. P. A. Smith (Billingham). Local volunteers included Miss A. Mackirdy, Miss C. McDonnell, G. McDonnell and all the committee. Also many others, too numerous to list here, who paid shorter visits to the site. Everyone worked very well, but I would particularly like to record my thanks to Mr. Grayson and Miss Mackirdy for their valiant work surveying in the bitter weather at Easter and also Misses Leach and Arbor who stayed on for an extra day in August, in spite of heavy rain. Figure 6 of the report is largely due to their efforts. Thanks are also due to Miss S. Frank for her secretarial efforts in the first stages of the Section's formation.

Activities in 1965 included a most enjoyable ramble, led by Raymond Hayes, tracing the course of a 'pannierman's causeway' in the Egton area.

A. L. PACITTO.

This region lies west of the great scarp of the North York Moors. Its general flatness is in sharp contrast to the abrupt scarp - "at the top a barren heath; at the foot the Vale of York and the fertile plains of Cleveland". But it is not one homogeneous region: below the scarp a broad bench of boulder clay and gravels extends the length of the Vale. In the central Vale, from the Tees south to Northallerton and Thirsk the bench is replaced with much lower land through which the rivers Wiske and Swale run. Here, although boulder clay predominates it is less well drained and is mixed with alluvium and gravels. The latter are often the areas chosen for village sites since they stand slightly above the general level.

The clay soils are heavy, except in places like the Cleveland embayment (i. e. around Stokesley) where "particularly in the neighbourhood of Kildale is a good deal of deep rich loam"<sup>2</sup>. This is the case in many places near to the moors. The region as a whole is one of noted fertility. It was, for instance, the most important area in Yorkshire during the 18th Century for the production of wheat: "Wheat is the staple produce of Cleveland", wrote Tuke, "No other district in the Riding, or perhaps in the North of England produces as much in proportion to its size or of as good a quality....".<sup>3</sup>

This region was the northerly extension of the great midland plain of England. Besides being geographically related, their historical development had strong affinities, often stronger in some respects than the affinities between the Vale and the highland areas of the North-East. Despite numerous set-backs, ranging from the devastations of the Conqueror to the ravages of the Scots, the Vale had retained its predominance as an intensively settled and widely farmed region. In particular, within the Vale the persistent influence of certain soils, e. g. the alluvial gravel soils of the mid Vale and Teesmouth, was a notable factor in the distribution of agricultural wealth and activity throughout the medieval period. But what were the details within this broad regional pattern? Was arable farming more or less important than pastoral farming?

These questions can best be answered by means of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.<sup>4</sup> For most of the parishes in the Vale of York the *Valor* gives full details of tithe values. Such details were much less for other regions; occasionally they were entirely absent e. g. in the Vale of Pickering. Since tithe values reflected the agricultural economy of a parish a study of them makes it possible to assess the relative importance of arable and pasture farming in that parish, and because the information is comprehensive, in the region as a whole. This method has, in fact, been used before. Of course, the result of this will be to show the significance of arable farming in the early 16th Century, and although a well-marked continuity is noticed in the agricultural development of the North-East from the 12th to the 16th Centuries, the *Valor* of 1535 may not necessarily reflect the broad framework of medieval agriculture. The aim here is to examine the *Valor* and establish the relative

importance of arable farming in the Vale in 1535; then to see how far this can be applied to the region during medieval times.

Table 1<sup>5</sup> has been derived from the *Valor*. It shows what percentage corn-hay, wool-lamb-calf tithes were of the total agricultural tithe of the parish. The table has been arranged to show parishes of the mid-vale in the left "benefice" column and parishes with a good deal of moorland in them in the right "benefice" column. The first general impression which the figures convey is the preponderance of the corn-hay tithe. The tithe figures for the Coastal Plateau show a marked contrast. There the corn tithe and the animal tithe showed a very similar percentage and, in fact, at Sneton the animal tithe was greater than the corn tithe. This, together with other evidence, leads to the conclusion that pastoralism was more important than arable farming in the Coastal Plateau as a whole. Obviously this was not generally true for the Vale of York. The corn tithe in those parishes near the River Wiske in particular was very great (Kirby Wiske, Kilvington, Thirsk, North and South Ottrington, Birkby, West Rounton, Northallerton, and Thornton le Street). This was the area which the medieval assessments had shown to be foremost in terms of agricultural prosperity.

Undoubtedly, the corn production here was great because of the fertile alluvial gravel soils bordering the Wiske and the market demands of the towns nearby. In parishes such as Kirby Wiske cultivation was often on the flood plain of the river, so near that flooding sometimes put land out of cultivation there. This was also liable to happen in many other parishes since their settlements very frequently followed the river bank (e.g. North and South Ottrington).

A rather interesting feature shown by the tithe figures is that the further eastwards the parishes were the lower was the corn tithe and the higher the animal tithe. This might have been expected since such parishes usually included moorland but it could hardly have been hoped that the table would bring this out so well as it does. The decreasing importance of arable cultivation eastwards can be studied throughout - from the River Wiske to the Moorland Crestline (Hambleton Hills). In the alluvial gravel flats near the river the corn-hay tithe comprised over 90% of the total tithe at Kirby Wiske, Kilvington and Thirsk; moving east to the Boulder Clay areas the percentage fell slightly but was still around 80% (Welbury, Crathorne). The parishes largely situated on the Boulder Clay platforms at the root of the moorland scarp were of the same order. Coxwold, Felixkirk, and Kirby Knowle, for example, had corn tithes over 80% of the total. Though their boundaries included some moorland it was not as extensive as other parishes partly situated on the Boulder Clay platform but comprising often vast areas of moor.<sup>6</sup> In such parishes the corn tithe fell and the animal tithe rose: pasture farming was becoming more important. It was usually the wool-lamb tithe which increased most, showing a corresponding emphasis on sheep-farming. But arable cultivation appeared to be

% of Total Agricultural Tithe			% of Total Agricultural Tithe		
benefice	corn-hay	wool-lamb-	benefice	corn-hay	wool-lamb-
tithe	calf	tithe	tithe	calf	tithe
Kirby Wiske	96	4	Felixkirk	87	13
Kilvington	95	5	Kirby Knowle	80	20
Thirsk	90	10	Leake	77	23
Welbury	88	12	Stokesley	75	25
N. Ottrington	87	13	Kirby	67	33
Coxwold	86	14	Kildale	66	34
S. Ottrington	81	19	Cowesby	63	37
Crathorne	78	22	Osmotherley	58	42
Birkby	78	22	Sigston	55	45
West Rounton	75	25			
Thornton Street	74	26			
Northallerton	71	29			

Table 1.

very significant still, in many of these parishes, even if it failed to reach the height of the mid-Vale area. This was noticeable especially in the Cleveland embayment - an area of Boulder Clay and gravel soils which John Tuke found to be "a good deal of deep rich loam... near the moors, particularly in the neighbourhood of Kildale".<sup>7</sup> Here, Stokesley parish which included much of the embayment as well as Westerdale Moor - detached seven miles away, had 75% of its total tithe, corn.

This decrease in arable farming eastwards was partly reflected in the the Inquisitions for the Ninth (1341) which showed the amount of uncultivated land in the parish, formerly tilled.<sup>8</sup> Those parishes straggling across the moorland scarp generally had more land out of cultivation than the mid-Vale parishes. This was natural since much of the arable land would be marginal in character. Thus Kirkby, Ayton and Ingleby had "a great part of the arable of the Parish" uncultivated in 1341. This meant a loss to Stokesley of 1620/-. At Welbury and Crathorne 48 bovates and three parts of the arable respectively were out of cultivation. These parishes were nearer the mid-Vale and wholly on Boulder Clay soils. In the mid-Vale itself, near the Wiske, land out of cultivation seemed to be less, generally speaking. At Thirsk, for example, no mention was made of such land in 1341. Rounton had two carucates uncultivated, Kilvington 27 bovates, South Ottrington two carucates. Kirby Wiske had been more severely hit by flooding which had put two carucates out of use as well as three more for which no reason was given.

The value of such evidence is partly discounted because the Inquisition does not often refer to it, Scots raids had caused land to be put out of cultivation, especially in the mid-Vale, around Northallerton and Thirsk. Whether the Vale had made much of a recovery is hard

to say. Certain areas appeared to have been affected in 1341; at Northallerton the parishioners complained that all the parish had suffered destruction and burning from the Scots King and the rebels during the preceding twenty years. Corn production was much less than in old times, they went on to say, and there had been 8500 sheep in the parish "ante destructionem Scotorum" but in 1341 there were only 500.<sup>9</sup> A great deal of land had become out of cultivation in the Vale, only a short time before, due to the Scots. John de Mowbray's manor of Thirsk lay partly waste in 1327; 80 acres were uncultivated due to this.<sup>10</sup> At Cowton, the manor was worth only 1/6 and 60 acres were uncultivated. Further south, Easingwold and Huby had been burnt and devastated by the Scots. "

The normal agricultural relationships in the Vale during the 14th Century were upset by such conditions. Later the plagues of the middle 14th Century also had a disruptive effect, especially in the Vale.<sup>11</sup> Just as the devastations of 1069 had left the region prostrate so these later catastrophes interrupted normal agricultural conditions. But the effect of the latter was certainly not so extreme. As the reassessments of the 1318 showed the Vale of York and Cleveland suffered considerable decreases in agricultural prosperity due to Scottish ravages but the region still maintained its predominance in the North-East. This suggests that the relationship of arable to pastoral farming was still of the same order as the Valor of 1535 had shown it to be - that is that arable was far more important. Several documents seem to support this view.

The details of corn purchased for the King in 1300-1 and sent to Yarm for shipment, for example, give the impression that corn production, especially wheat and oats, was widespread throughout the Vale.<sup>12</sup> Although the amounts purchased were generally small the area drawn upon was very wide. This can be seen from the size of the hinterland of Yarm. In particular the Cleveland Plain was emphasised as a principal source for the Royal corn. Northallerton emerged as an important collecting centre for the corn of the southern Vale. Taken by itself this evidence does not necessarily imply that the Vale of York was predominantly an area of arable farming. But collated with other evidence its value becomes apparent. Such evidence can be found in the monastic archives.

The multitude of monastic granges situated in the Vale of York - Cleveland region was enough to show the great value attached to it by the monastic farmer. But it was even more significant that these granges were the largest arable farms and the most valuable that many of the monasteries possessed. This was most clearly illustrated by the granges of Guisborough Priory. The Dissolution Accounts give a good idea of the size of these granges and their value in 1539. Table 2<sup>13</sup> lists such details for Guisborough granges in Cleveland. The entire Priory land associated with the granges is also noted as well as the value of the monastic property there at various times.

Grange	Grange Land	Total Land	Value of Moveables 1301	Value 1535	Total
					1539
Barnaby	347 acres	Same	8. 7. 6	8. 6. 8	21. 12. 8
North Cote	395 acres	Same	6. 6. 3		7. 16. 8
Marton	(not given)	(not given)	22. 5. 0	5. 0. 0	4. 19. 0
Ormesby	12½ bovates	37½ bovates	30. 18. 9	15. 6. 8	16. 18. 4
Yearby	?	405+ acres	64. 3. 9		20. 15. 8
Kirkleatham	?	195+ acres		9. 15. 4	8. 10. 11
Coatham	?	3 bovates		20. 14. 0	23. 16. 6
		262+ acres			
Marske-Redcar	14 bovates	31 bovates	28. 3. 9	20. 13. 10	22. 2. 4
		40+ acres			
Linthorpe	(not given)	(not given)	8. 15. 0	2. 13. 4	20. 9. 11
Thornaby	16 bovates	31+ bovates	11. 6. 3	17. 4. 4	20. 9. 11
Arsum	12 bovates	12+ bovates		4. 0. 0	6. 0. 9

Table 2.

With the exception of Barnaby and North Cote (mainly pasture) all the land quoted appeared to be arable in 1539. It has been shown elsewhere that the grange sizes in the Dissolution Accounts were usually the same, or almost the same, as the grange sizes earlier.<sup>15</sup> Thus, the Canons cultivated 360 acres at Barnaby in c. 1300; in 1539 the grange was 347 acres, which had turned to pasture. This stability of land ownership enables an estimate to be made of the amount of land attached to each grange and associated with it during the medieval period. The granges in Cleveland were the main centres of the Canon's arable farming. Their other granges and cattle farms in the moorlands and elsewhere were generally much smaller in size and had little or no arable land attached. The table shows that arable on grange land alone was great, but if associated land owned by the Canons in the vill was worked in harmony with it the total arable holding would be greater still. There is reason to believe that this was so.

A Rent Roll (c. 1300) shows the tenants of the Priory at many places and the lands they held.<sup>16</sup> It is possible from this to get an idea of what lands were being cultivated by the Canons and what lands were let out. No tenants were mentioned for Barnaby, North Cote, Yearby, Kirkleatham, Coatham, and Marske so that much or all the land owned there was presumably worked by the Canons. The Roll states, in fact, for Barnaby that they were working 360 acres. At Linthorpe at least 20½ bovates of land was in the hands of tenants, 26 at Thornaby, 15 at Arsum and 9 at Marton.<sup>17</sup> Even so the 1301 subsidy shows that the Priory had moveables at some of these places so presumably land was being worked by the Canons. Thus the arable granges of the Canons in Cleveland were large in size, and cultivation was great c. 1300. Leasing of

land had begun, speeded no doubt by the disasters which overtook the Priory at the turn of the 13th Century. But the period seemed to be a watershed between wholesale leasing and personal cultivation with the latter retaining much predominance still.

The purpose of this partial diversion has been to show how important the Cleveland plain was in the arable farming of the Canons - here were their largest granges, here the centres of their cultivation. The values quoted by the table emphasise the predominance of the Cleveland granges.

Reference to the granges of the other monasteries in the Vale of York - Cleveland region confirms the importance of arable farming there. This was particularly evident in Byland Abbey granges on the Boulder Clay soils west of the Coxwold gap ( Wildon, Boscar, Faldington, Balke) and in the Cleveland embayment.<sup>18</sup> In the latter area Rievaulx cultivated four carucates at their grange of Great Broughton in 1299 each worth 40/- while nearby at Dromonby, the monks of Fountains had an important grange, established about 1180 and still in their hands in 1353.<sup>19</sup> It was also in this area that some of the most agriculturally prosperous parishes were found, notably at Rudby and Stokesley.

The *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, then, showed that the emphasis of farming in the Vale of York during the 16th Century was decisively towards arable. Earlier sources, mainly monastic, showed that this trend had been active much earlier, and that the farming was predominantly arable at least from the 12th Century. If Domesday Book illustrated normal agricultural conditions in Yorkshire it might well be possible to follow this trend further back in time. But this is denied. Of course, the extent and importance of pastoralism in the Vale and elsewhere must not be underestimated.

The landscape portrayed by the Domesday Survey offered a great opportunity for settlement and agriculture, especially by the monasteries. Large areas still remained unreclaimed. Parts of the land which had been recovered and tilled before 1069 reverted to waste through the depopulation of the district.

The moors themselves were not settled and scarcely used; a large part of the Vale of Pickering was marshland often at best providing occasional pasturage; extensive areas of woodland yet remained to be cleared, especially along the clayland of the coast and in the Vale of York.

The opportunity for expansion and reconstruction of settlement and agriculture was almost unlimited. Even by 1086 much of the settled area had not recovered from the devastation of 1069. The way was open for a new era in settlement, and it is one of the most significant facts in History that the rise of the new Orders of Monasticism should follow so closely upon the devastation of Yorkshire.

From the 11th Century onwards, far into and beyond the medieval period the pattern of agricultural prosperity was established and

strengthened. The predominance of the Vales of York, Cleveland, and Pickering was well marked. The latter, especially, had become closely settled, potentially and actually the wealthiest region which had recovered more rapidly from devastation than any other. It is a great tribute to the Yorkshire farmers, notably the monastic farmers, that they were able to make such profound changes and improvements from the 12th Century onwards. Such changes were in effect a revolution - gradual, unnamed and unsung but no less significant than that later agricultural revolution about which so much is said and written.

#### NOTES

1. W. Marshall, The Rural Economy of Yorks., 1788, vol. I, p. 6.
2. J. Tuke, General View of the Agriculture of the North Riding of Yorks., 1794, p. 12.
3. ibid., p. 35.
4. Valor Ecclesiasticus (Record Comm. London, 1825), vol. V.
5. Nine parishes have had to be omitted because the total Valor only is given for them, viz. Ingleby, Whorlton, Arncliffe, Guisborough, Ayton, Rudby, Levington, Kirkleatham, and Middlebrough. The wool tithe only is given for Marton and Stainton, Ormesby and Marske. (For the purposes of this study the areas have been limited by the R. Tees to the north and the R. Wiske to the west.)
6. And some areas of gravel.
7. Tuke, op. cit., pp. 11-12.
8. Nonarum Inquisitiones (Record Comm., London, 1807).
9. P.R.O. E. 179/211/19 m. 18.
10. C.I. Post Mortem VII pp. 52-53.
11. ibid., p. 56.
12. The list of poor villages among which proceeds of felons' goods had been distributed to help them repair losses due to the plague consisted mainly of villages in the Vale of York and Cleveland. There were only a few outside, e.g. Scarborough, Skelton, Loftus, Danby, and Glaistead, Amotherby, Hovingham and Wombleton. P.R.O. E. 179/211/27.
13. P.R.O. E. 101/597/5.
14. Compiled from Dissolution Accts., Lay Subsidy (1301), Valor Ecclesiasticus
15. B. Waites, "The Monastic Grange as a Factor in the Settlement of N.E. Yorks.", Yorks. Arch. Journal, Pt. CLX, 1962
16. Guis. Ch. vol. 2, pp. 412-450.
17. Certain entries in the subsidy were interesting, e.g. "William Werdale for the Grange of Linthorpe; William Rievaulx for Marton and Barnaby". Whether these men were Priory grangiers or whether they had been leased the granges is not known.
18. NB. These granges had large grants of pasture for oxen made to them, e.g. 95 oxen from Wildon and Stocking granges given common pasture in Kilburn (1224, Y.A.S. Fines vol. 62, pp. 55-56). This suggests that arable framing might have been very important about this time. If used for ploughing the oxen represent 12 teams.
19. E.Y.C. vol. 1, pp. 454-5. Memorials of Fountains Abbey (Surtees) vol. 3, p. 4.

The site is on the north side of a field called 'Cooper's Riccal', No. 83 on the 25" O.S. map, Grid. Ref. SE 717894, close to the boundary between Hutton-le-Hole and Spaunton. This plateau of high ground, 500' above sea-level, was cultivated from very early times. We have evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age people in the vicinity. Lingmoor, to the south of the site, implies moorland surviving into medieval times, and Appleton Common is a modern survival. Some of the land was wooded, and the Romano-British people were probably living in clearings between tracts of forest and moorland.

The name 'Cooper' is fairly recent, due to the tilling of the field by a 19th Century farmer of that name from Lingmoor Farm about a mile to the south. 'Riccal' is ancient, taking the name of the 650' headland or nab to the north; it contains Ri (Rye), a celtic place-naming meaning 'great' and usually associated with water - cf. rivers Rye and Riccal locally - but perhaps applied in this case to the 'great' headland.

The discovery of the site is entirely due to the diligent observation of two local men, Mr. Leslie Davison who was farming the land at the time, and Mr. Bert Frank, director of the Ryedale Folk-Museum in Hutton-le-Hole, who noted several burnt stones and fragments of sandstone querns in the predominantly limestone field-walls, and also found pottery and iron slag. Mr. Davison came on a quantity of Romano-British potsherds on the surface of the 4½ acre field. As the owner had died and Mr. Davison's tenancy was expiring, he suggested that it might be the last opportunity for a trial dig, which took place in 1962 with his valuable help and that of Mr. Rowland Close of Baysdale, who has much experience of this type of excavation.

We exposed as much as possible of the area where the potsherds were found, approximately 12' by 10'. It was close to a ledge of rock on the north side, on which stood a baulk part stone wall, part thorn hedge. The rock was only 3-6 inches below the soil. An area of stones some flat, some set on edge, were placed round the south side of a rock-cut basin, 3'6" by 2'9", and 1' deep in the rock, 2' below the turf surface. One side of it was natural rock, the other stones set on edge, all very reddened by fire. The basin was full of dark soil, charcoal and potsherds, the latter mainly from cookpots, storage jars and a bowl (Fig. 2, Nos. 15-20). It could have formed the domestic hearth or oven, though it may have been a corn-drying kiln, similar to the rock-cut pits at Box Hall and elsewhere in Cleveland. (See Figs. 1, 2).

Rock-cut cavities of this type are found in rectilinear settlements of the Roman period in Northumberland,<sup>2</sup> and on a large scale - almost miniature quarries - under the floors of the Romano-British house in the Old Pasture, Spaunton, only  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile southeast of our site.<sup>3</sup> Under a house rebuilt in 1695 and still occupied in Spaunton village is a rock-cut cavity 4' square, used as the base of a larder which was built on top of it.

This basin was the main feature of our site, the rest consisting of

a mass of smaller stones, set more or less level, where undisturbed by the plough. On these lay several dozen fragments of pottery, retrieved with difficulty as the soil is rather clayey and was set hard. They were almost all 4th Century types. With them were various utilised stones and pebbles, two or three hones, one fragment of a flat rotary quern upper stone, 3 or 4 pieces of iron, and a few animal bones - ox, pig, horse, goat, and red deer.

Apparently we had the floor of a round or oval hut of the type found at Elmswell and elsewhere in East Yorks.<sup>4</sup> These were 16' by 14', slightly larger than ours, though ploughing of field 83 had disturbed much of it.

The site did not continue north of the hedge; the field there had a much greater depth of soil (over 2'). Apart from a few burnt stones and 2 or 3 sherds, no other evidence came from a trial pit here.

A close parallel to our site was excavated in 1950 by Philip Brown of Norton/Malton, in the vicarage garden, Langton Rd., Norton. The paving was similar, the size (16' by 12') only slightly larger, and this was complete. Inside a basin it had a small 13" square stone-lined box set into the subsoil, reminiscent of the neolithic 'limpit tanks' at Skara Brae.<sup>5</sup> In the S. W. corner was a pit containing a complete storage jar 22" high, and fragments of another were found at the N. W. edge. This was a very 'native' site to be found close to the perimeter of the Roman town of Norton. It was dated late 4th to 5th Century A.D. by the pottery. There were no coins.

Many other examples could be quoted in N.E. Yorks - see distribution map in Scarborough Arch. Soc. Transactions for 1958. Sites at Staxton and Sherburn, could now be added to this map, and a notable recent discovery was at Newbiggin Hall in Grosmont (Whitby), where Dr. A. W. Riddolls and party uncovered a paving containing quern stones, 4th Century pottery and worked jet, the latter evidence of lathe-turned bangles and rings.<sup>6</sup> Hints of similar sites with early 4th Century pottery and loom weights, near Gillamoor, and another paving on Sinnington Common where it meets Marton Common, gave a date agreeing with Field 83. The Crayke-Stillington district has produced similar site evidence.<sup>7</sup>

These sites were the dwelling floors of huts, circular, oval, or in some cases rectangular, maybe with a few lower courses of dry stone wall and turf with timber above, capped by turf or thatch. The inhabitants were smallholders or peasant farmers producing for themselves and to supply the demands of Roman tax levy of corn or hides. They brought iron from Rosedale West Side, already smelted into small 'blooms', which they re-heated and hammered into tools and weapons. The analysis of the slag<sup>8</sup> shows that 50% iron was left in the bloom compared to 44% and 46% in the medieval slag found at Spaunton and Levisham.

The nearby site mentioned, in Field 156 (Spaunton Old Pasture) is a much larger establishment, a native farm with some affinity to a

villa, but without tessellated paving, though primitive hypocausts are present. No roofing tiles have yet been found, so the farm was probably thatched. Flat rotary querns are plentiful, denoting corn-growing; the area is still noted for good wheat and barley land. Loom weights and spindle whorls show that wool was produced. The animal bones have not yet been identified, though ox, pig and sheep are plentiful. This very important site is still under excavation by Mr. A. H. Whitaker, of Leeds. It may have been the principal farmstead or 'manor' of the group, as hints of another site just to the west are visible, and a circular cropmark in the next field may be a third hut.

The four isolated farms of Oxclose and Lingmoor are interesting survivals of an ancient type, still with rigg and furrow to the east of them all. Only one burial of the period has been discovered (in 1904), in Clark Close about a mile to the east of Field 83. Its identification by various writers ranged from food-vessel man to Anglian. It is now in the hospitium of the Yorkshire Museum, a large cist containing a skeleton at full length<sup>9</sup> and a small black pot, recently identified and drawn by Mr. L. P. Wenham as 4th Century A.D.

Between this and the other local sites runs Spaunton Lane, joining directly the Ings Balk, a remarkable ridged track more like a linear earthwork than a Roman road, in the opinion of Mr. J. G. Rutter. This was later part of the 'Abbots Road' from York via Normanby to the St. Mary's Abbey grange at Spaunton.

A footpath passes close to the east end of the Old Pasture site; this was the old road from Spaunton to Kirkby Moorside, and it is raised in places near Lingmoor, with a ditched mound alongside.

Appleton-le-Moors has produced a Roman coin of Gordian III, 248 - 54, and various potsherds have been found on the common to the south, where air-photos show a ditched, squared enclosure of the Levisham type, not yet examined. These Romano-British native farmsteads could well be the forerunners of some of the isolated farms, and even of small villages such as Spaunton.

#### APPENDIX. Finds from Field 83.

##### a. Pottery. Fig. 2.

Approximately 300 sherds were found in and around the area excavated. Some 60-70 were picked up on the surface of the ploughing by Mr. Davison. About 100 were hard coarse grey ware or the dark sandy grey akin to Norton ware.

10 rim sherds of straight-sided dishes. Nos. 1-3 drawn.

No. 1, smooth grey. No. 2, hard sandy grey, dia. 8", 2 faint grooves below rim. Cf. Crambeck type 2a. No. 3, ditto, dia. 9-10", no grooves.

Drawing No. 4, rim and side of flanged dish in coarse dark grey ware, Crambeck type 2. (2 or 3 other examples, all badly worn).

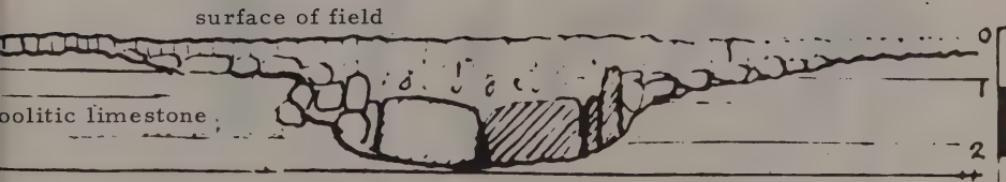
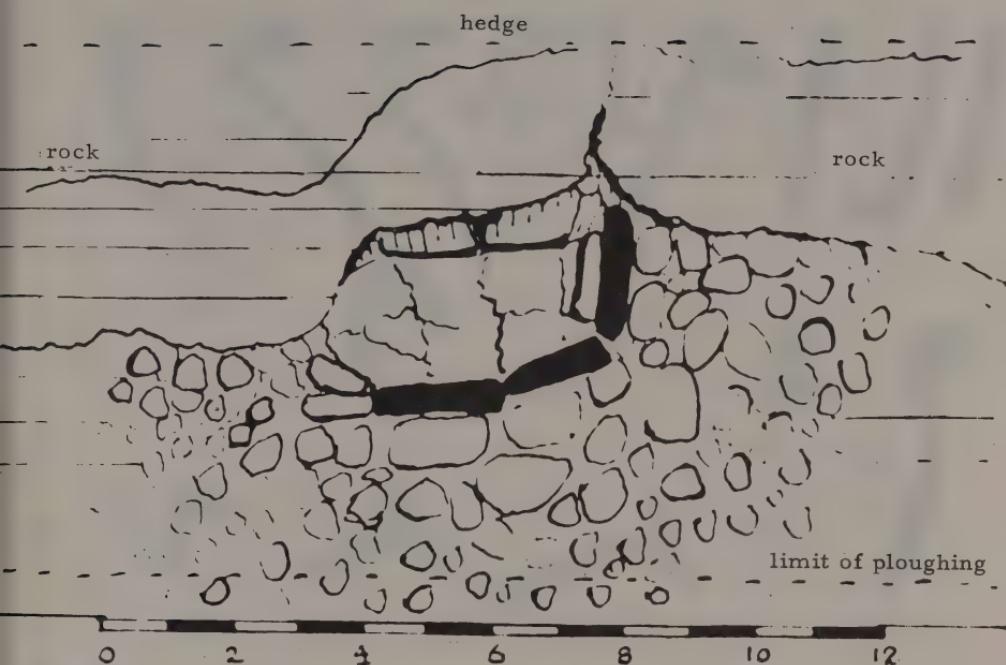


Fig. 1, Romano-British Site, Field 83, S.E. of Hutton-le-Hole

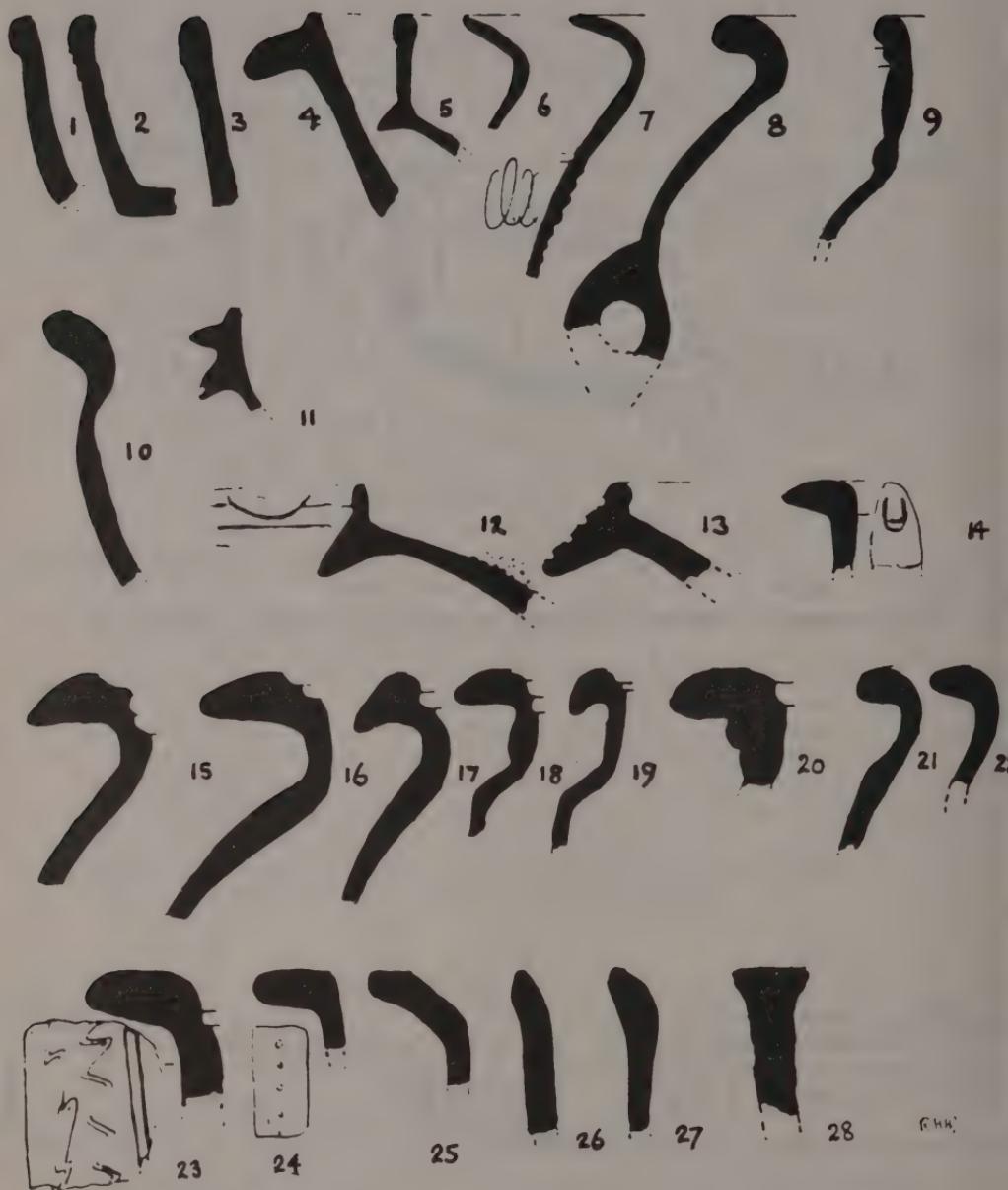


Fig. 2, Pottery from Romano-British Site, Field 83, Hutton-le-Hole

No. 5, hemispherical flanged bowl fragment, Crambeck type 5a, in light sandy grey. No other sherds found.

Nos. 6, 7, jars in light smooth grey ware. No. 6, dia. 4", No. 7, dia.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", with faint line and looped decoration. Crambeck type 3 or Norton 42c.

No. 8, loop-handled jar, hard sandy grey. Crambeck type 3, dia 4" at rim.

No. 9, rim of very large jar, Crambeck type 3a, dia. 7" at rim.

No. 10, rim or side of bowl in hard stony grey, undecorated, Crambeck type 4.

No. 11, fragment of rim of small mortarium in light creamy ware, dia. 7". No trace of paint. Crambeck type 8.

Nos. 12, 13, rims of hammer-head mortaria in light buff, Crambeck type 6, though reeded mortars similar to 13 were made at Norton.

No. 14, curious hook-like piece of sherd. May be eroded freak?  
(No. 14a, b, (not drawn), rim fragment of platter, 9"dia., in smooth light grey. Signal Station type 32, and also Crambeck 10 in another form. Also footring of flagon in light grey, Crambeck type 12.)

Calcite gritted sherds- Some 140-150 sherds of this ware, many possibly belonging to the same pot. Nos. 15-19 are rims of jars and cookpots of Signal Station type 26 (16 rims).

No. 15, large 7" dia, dark grey to brown, pitted interior. 2 lid grooves.

No. 16, ditto, single groove, hard grey-brown ware.

No. 17, ditto, hard black exterior. Signal Station fig. 11, No. 8.

Nos. 18, 19, similar, though smaller examples, sooty exterior.

No. 20, fragment of rim of very large storage jar.

Nos. 21, 22, jars of medium size without groove.

No. 23, rim of cookpot or jar with two wavy lines on top of rim.

cf. Scarborough Arch. Soc. Report No. 1, Crossgates fig. 10 1B/1, also Norton Site E fig. 3 (unpublished report).

No. 24, rim of jar with row of incised dots on top. Cf. ibid. 'Crossgates', No. 18/2. P.S.A.S., 'Jarlshof', fig. 56 No. 3 - identical rim (from surface of field)

No. 25, Knapton-Norton type of rim of large jar. Iron age survival.

Nos. 26, 27, rims of platters of Signal Station type 31, fig. 1-2.

No. 27, hard black fumed, late 4th, early 5th Century? 8" dia..

No. 28, unusual rim in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick calcite gritted ware, black to corky brown, straight side without any sign of curve on rim - rectangular dish, Iron Age survival, cf. Almondbury (in Tolson Memorial Museum.)

N. B. Whole groups of sherds fit in with 4th, early 5th Century dating. Some native Iron Age survivals, but large proportion of Crambeck and possibly Norton wares. Kilns, not yet excavated, were probably working in Norton in the 4th Century.

Also found, one Samian footring and a piece of plain Samian;

fragment of castor box, and sherds of undated beaker of Norton type 9a.

b. Stone. (Not illustrated)

Portions of two or three hones.

1. 5" long by  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide tapering to 1", and 5/8" thick, oval section and very burnt. Local drift material? Cf. Elmswell I, Hull Museum Publication No. 198. (1937), p. 39.

2. End of circular hone, 1" dia., 2" long (broken). Rougher stone-local limestone?

3. Piece 1" square, groove on one side.

4. Rubbing or polishing stone, rounded,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " dia., 1" thick. Local drift, hard, smoothed on top.

5. Flat piece,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " by 4" by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. Smoothed and rubbed. Use doubtful. Many broken and burnt stones on site were certainly utilised, as in huts on Percy Rigg (Kildale).

6. Fragment of flat rotary quern, from paving; others found in field walls.

Flint: 8 flakes of flint - strike-a-lights? - and one crude core scraper. Flints, however, are plentiful in all the neighbouring fields.

c. Iron.

2 square, hand-made nails, 1 rectangular piece  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " by 2" of doubtful origin, and several pieces of heavy iron slag, the largest of which was sent to Mr. S. Hodgson (Cargo Fleet Ironworks) for analysis. This must be Rosedale iron - nearest deposit. Blooms were heated and worked by a blacksmith on the site to make tools, as was done well into the Middle Ages.

ANALYSIS.

	Field 83, Rom-Brit.	Old Pasture, Rom-British (A. H. Whitaker)	Spaunton Manor, medieval, 13-15th Centuries.
Peroxide of iron	16.71	34.43	27 - 70
Protoxide of iron	50.14	44.87	58.24
Protoxide of manganese	-	-	-
Lime	1.00	0.50	0.50
Magnesia	-	-	-
Alumina	trace	trace	trace
Silica	24.60	11.10	8.10
Phosphoric acid	0.29	0.54	0.48
Sulphur trioxide	0.10	0.15	0.125
Chlorates of			
Potassium and Sodium	0.50	0.30	0.80
Carbon, combined water, carbonaceous matter.	3.06	5.43	2.46

d. Animal bones.

Mostly very fragmentary; a few teeth of ox, horse, and pig; bones of same and of red deer; 1 oyster and limpet shell.

NOTES

1. Box Hall (Castleton). Trial excavation, R. Close and R. H. Hayes, 1960, unpublished.
2. Small stone-lined basins, 26" dia., 7" deep, were sunk into the floors of three huts of the R-B. period at Bridge House Wark, North-umberland. Arch. Aeliana, vol. 38, 4th series 1960, p. 13, figs. 5-6. and Pt. II, fig. 3.
3. Old Pasture, Spaunton, field excavation by A. H. Whitaker, unpub.
4. Philip Corder, 'Excavations at Elmswell', East Yorks., 1938', Hull Museum Pub., No. 207, 1940.
5. Skara Brae, V. G. Childe.
6. Newbiggin Hall, Grosmont, excavated by Dr. A. W. Riddolls, 1964-5. See Whitby Gazette, Nov. 1965.
7. Crayke. Yorks. Arch. Journal, Pt. 157, vol. XL, pp. 90-98
8. For iron slag analysis see Appendix above
9. Coffin found by ploughman, T. Richardson of Appleton-le-Moors when hedge was removed in 1904. In Kirk Collection, Pickering. R. W. Crosland said there was a Samian ware spindle whorl; also a black pot described by L. P. Wenham in Yorks. Arch. Journal, Pt. 158, vol. XL, 1960, pp. 309-10, fig. 7.

Rudland Close lies on Spaunton Moor, within the Manor of Spaunton and about two miles north of Hutton le Hole. (Fig. 1.). It consists of a large and irregularly shaped banked and ditched enclosure straddling Rudland Beck (later Hutton Beck), between the 750' and the 900' contours. The boundaries of this enclosure do not appear on the Ordnance Survey maps, although the name appears to the east of the beck on the six inch and 2½ inch sheets.

The barn and associated buildings lie on the west bank of the beck and in the southernmost corner of the enclosure (Grid Ref. SE 699936) (Fig. 2.). Old hollow trackways are visible on the aerial photographs of the area running along the crests of the ridges a few hundred yards to the east and west. Another trackway linking the two ridges passes close to the southern part of the enclosure and buildings.

None of these trackways is in use now, apart from one which has become the main Hutton to Castleton road along Blakey Rigg to the west.

The area is now all heather-moor, and there is no cultivation outside the dales on either side. Nor is there any tradition of ancient cultivation or buildings remaining in the district, although some of the older locals know of the name Rudland Close.

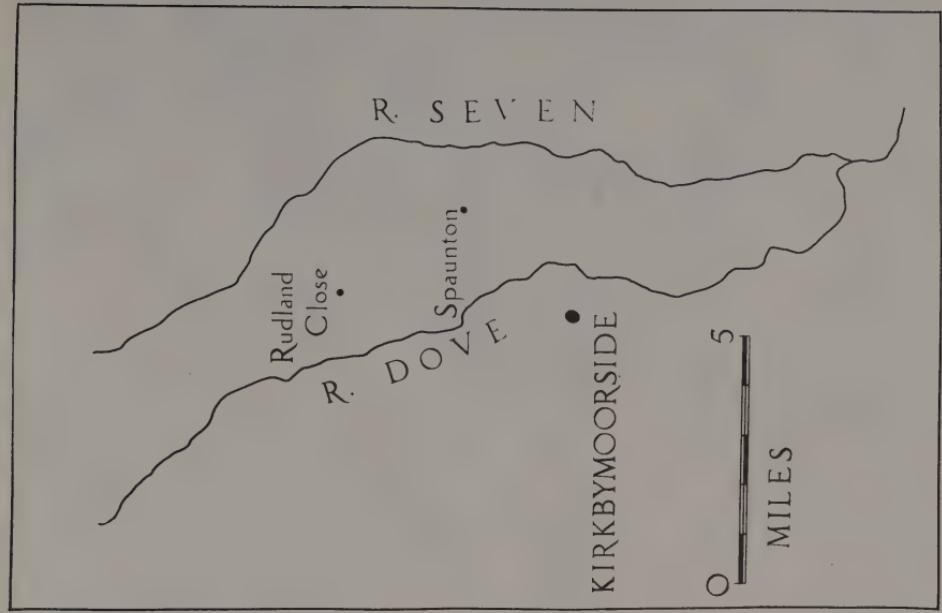
#### THE BARN.

The site was first visited by the writer in 1960, in the company of Mr. R. H. Hayes of Hutton-le-Hole and Mr. Headley of Spaunton Lodge, who had reported the existence of foundations.

Though very overgrown by heather and bracken, and surrounded by peat bog, it was immediately apparent that this was the site of a very substantial aisled building. The walls were visible as bracken-covered mounds standing up to two feet high, with stonework still exposed in places. Some of the stylobate blocks of the south arcade were still standing above ground level. At this time the enclosure earthwork was not recognized, but became apparent after subsequent examination of the aerial photographs.

In view of the remote situation and scale of the buildings it was decided to carry out further investigations, and over Easter 1964 several small cuttings were made to examine the structure and attempt to find some dating evidence. These revealed a substantial stone wall packed with sandy yellow clay forming the outer wall of the barn, and a single small doorway in the middle of the S.E. wall (the long axis of this building is aligned N.E. - S.W.). The doorway measured 3'6" in width, and on the N.E. side was a small stone which had its upper surface dressed smooth and a small hollow picked in the centre of it. (Plate 2.). This hollow showed no trace of wear and it is not easy to explain satisfactorily the presence of this feature.

The inner face of the wall was of orthostatic construction in places, although insufficient work has yet been done to reveal any pattern to this. The building seems to have been floored with clay, with very



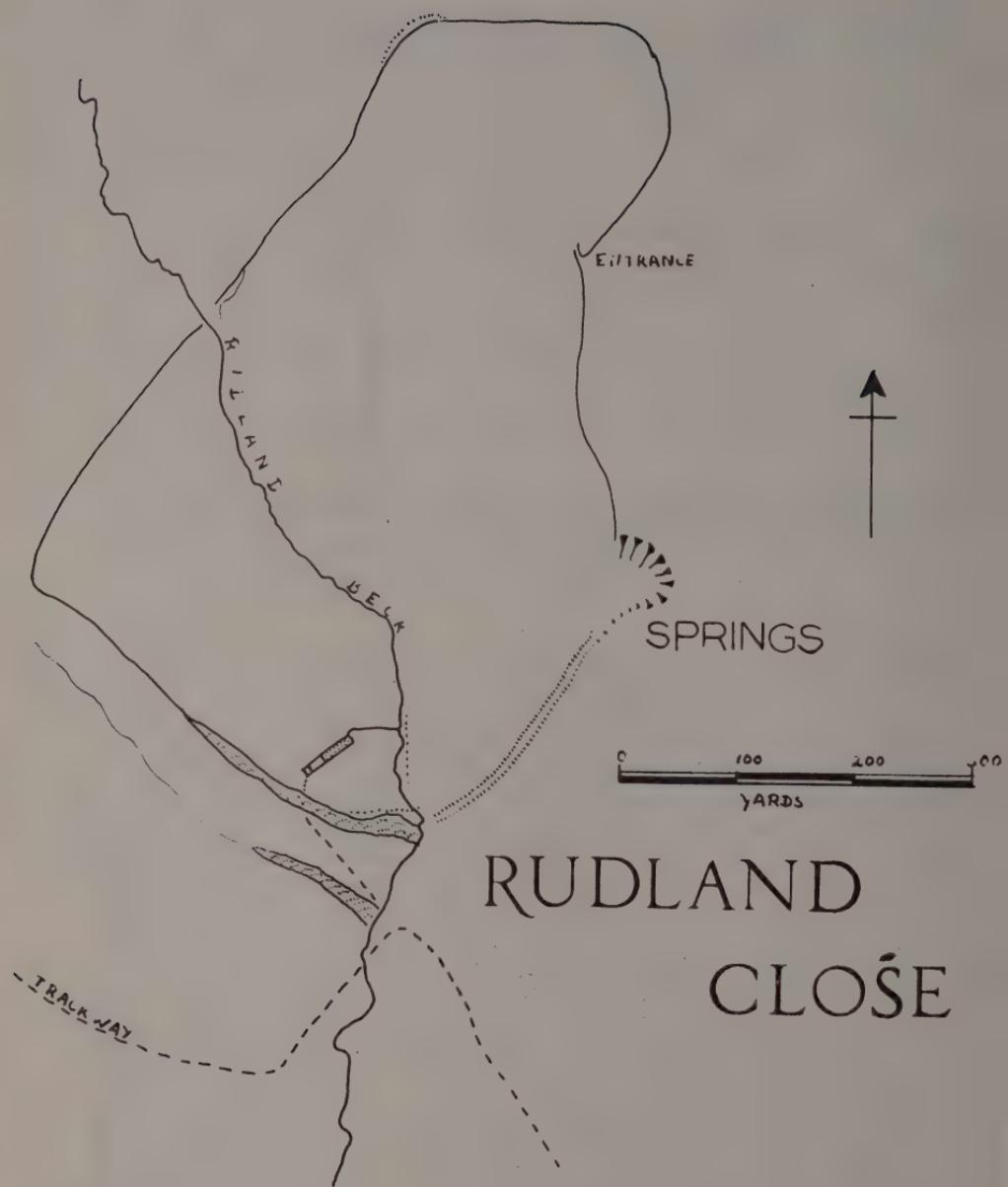


Fig. 2.

Plate 1.(opposite). Aerial photograph of site.  
(Royal Air Force Photograph. Crown Copyright Reserved)





Plate 2. Doorway in south wall of 'barn' facing east. Shows remains of cobbling and 'pivot' stone.

rough cobbling reinforcing the surface in and near doorways. The interior was 110' in length, and 28' in width, with a 17' to 18' nave giving rather narrow aisles. On the north the stylobates were much thinner and flatter than those of the south aisle, presumably to help compensate for the natural slope of the ground over the site.

Some of the blocks are missing each side, but enough remain to determine that there were originally 13 pairs. This means bays of only about 8' wide - "half bays" in fact, as the traditional medieval bay was 16' in width. The main entrances were in the narrow ends of the building, not, as would have been more usual, along its south front. (Fig. 3.).

#### THE "YARD".

The north and south walls continued S. W. of the barn, forming what appeared to be an open yard or fold, about 60' in length, and terminating in a smaller rectangular feature with its long axis at right angles to the rest of the structure. It appeared likely that this was some kind of dwelling or house. The whole complex of buildings measured 185' in length.

#### THE "HUT".

Work was re-started on a rather larger scale in 1965, and over Easter the excavation of a jumbled mass of stone lying against the outside wall of the barn close to its south corner was undertaken. This proved to be a tiny dry stone walled hut, utilizing the barn wall as its N. W. wall. It had a floor of carefully laid but undressed stone slabs, and its interior measurements were 10'6" by 5'6". (Fig. 4.). Its N. E. wall had clearly been built over fallen debris from the barn wall, which showed signs of having been robbed on either side of the structure. (Plate 4.). One rather curious feature here is the odd raised platform of large stones which partially blocks the entrance to the building, and for which no explanation is at present forthcoming. It is of irregular shape and about 18" high. It is built over the paved floor, and may possibly not be an original part of the structure.

Drainage of the enclosure ditch to the west of the buildings was also attempted, the object being to find any entrance or crossing place giving access to the site. In this it was successful, for a careful probing revealed the presence of stonework, and subsequent excavation a small stone-built culvert.

#### THE DRAIN.

Outside the north wall of the barn, and about midway along its length, is a roughly semicircular hollow where a considerable quantity of earth has been dug away. Leading away from this point, and running close to the wall in a north-easterly direction, is a small ditch, now choked with waterlogged peat. The hollow itself is fairly dry, and it seems likely that this is the "quarry" where clay for the

walls and floor was obtained.

The ditch is fairly obviously to collect and carry away the drip from behind the building, and to intercept any water running off the higher ground to the north. At the N.E. end of the barn it curves away very slightly to the north, and then back eastwards to the edge of the bank above the beck.

For most of its length it is now buried under a thick accumulation of soggy peat, but probing revealed the presence of stonework along its southern side. A section was cut about 50' from the northern corner of the barn, and a very substantial stone-built revetment uncovered. (Fig. 5.). This formed the south side of the channel, and consisted of three courses of stone solidly packed in grey clay on the inner side, from the top of which a clay-packed stone bank sloped away to ground level on the south. The internal structure of this feature was not examined at this time as it was considered unwise to breach it. The channel itself appeared to be at least 3' to 4' wide but on excavation rapidly filled with water and rendered detailed examination impossible. It was, however, apparent that it was either cut into, or lined with, a grey clay similar to that which packed the stonework. This is the only grey clay so far observed in any of the structures, and it is possible that its colour is the result of bleaching by the acid peat. No trace of any crossing place is visible anywhere along the length of this ditch, and it would appear that it formed the northern boundary of an enclosed area to the south of the buildings.

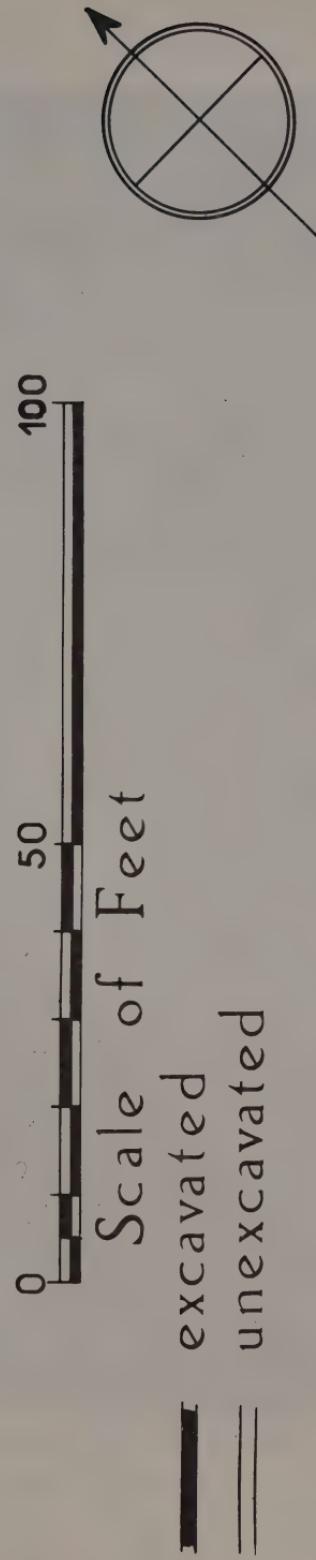
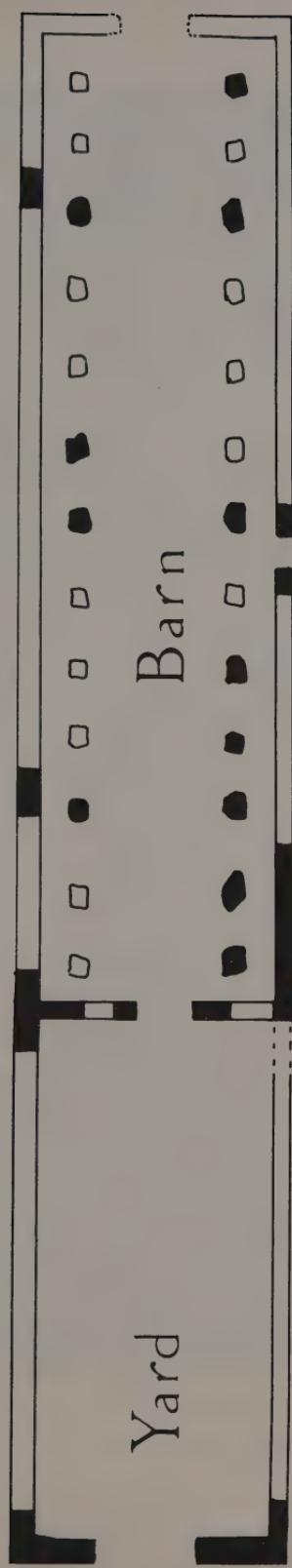
#### THE "WALLED ENCLOSURE".

This area was roughly triangular in shape, bounded by the buildings and ditch to the north, and by stone or turf walls following Rudland Beck on the east and the boundary of the main enclosure to the south-west. (Fig. 6.).

This last-mentioned length of boundary is probably a natural feature, a small gulley down which a tiny stream flows, although its course is now choked by peat-bog. From the south corner of the buildings a length of orthostatic walling runs diagonally across into the edge of this bog, where it gives way to a low earthen or turf bank. This then turns sharply to the south, running partly through the bog for 50 to 60 yards before regaining dry land. At this point it in turn gives way to a dry-stone wall which continues the line as far as the bank of the beck.

The third side is defined by another dry-stone wall, this built of larger stones, which runs close by the beck on its east bank. This has suffered somewhat from flood action, and is now difficult to trace in places.

The small stream seems to have flowed outside the S.W. boundary, although Rudland Beck itself was certainly included, and would form the water-supply for any livestock kept within the enclosure.



# RUDLAND CLOSE

or buildings. Access was provided by a trackway which ran diagonally from south to north down the steep bank west of the beck.

Owing to flood damage it is not possible to determine whether there was ever any entrance to this area near the beck, but two gaps in the orthostatic walling near the buildings appear to have been used for this purpose. One is just a gap in a straight run of wall about 12' from the south corner of the house, and the other 30' or so nearer the bog where a change in alignment takes place. The first of these is in line with the culvert mentioned above.

#### THE MAIN ENCLOSURE.

The boundary of the main enclosure is still easily visible, and in the main is obviously artificial, with the exception of the south-west side. As suggested above this is probably a natural feature, the course of a tiny stream draining the ridge to the west. It may be that its bed was cleared and re-cut from time to time, but there is no sign of an earthen bank alongside it as there would be had any sizable ditch been cut.

On the south-east however, it probably is artificial, and served to carry away the water from a series of springs along the eastern perimeter. From the action of this water it has become very eroded and enlarged, and now has a more natural appearance. Eventually, peat built up around these springs blocking the ditch, so that most of the water now drains away through the enclosure to the beck below.

Elsewhere the boundary is plainly artificial, a well-defined ditch with a bank on its inner side. No excavation of this feature has been undertaken as yet, but in places the bank has very clearly - defined edges, as though it had been constructed of stacked turves. The ditch is very wide and deep on the north-west corner, a fact for which there is no obvious explanation.

The only apparent entrance lies about two-thirds of the way up the eastern side. It is situated in a re-entrant angle, and appears to have been rather complex, with the ditches and banks turning inward on either side to form a kind of bottleneck. This is more clearly apparent on the aerial photograph than it is on the ground. There is no trace of any trackway leading to it, and although the eastern ridgeways pass close by none seem to diverge in this direction. The ground at this point is now rather wet and boggy, and careful probing in and around the entrance has revealed no trace of paving or metalling, nor is there any trace of a trackway within the enclosure, or even any reasonable access route to the buildings.

#### THE "HOUSE".

During the summer of 1965 excavation was continued, this time on the site of the "house", and with the financial backing of the Helmsley Archaeological Society.

A cutting 27' long by 45' wide was opened, taking in the S. W.



Plate 3. Northwest wall of barn, with stylobate.

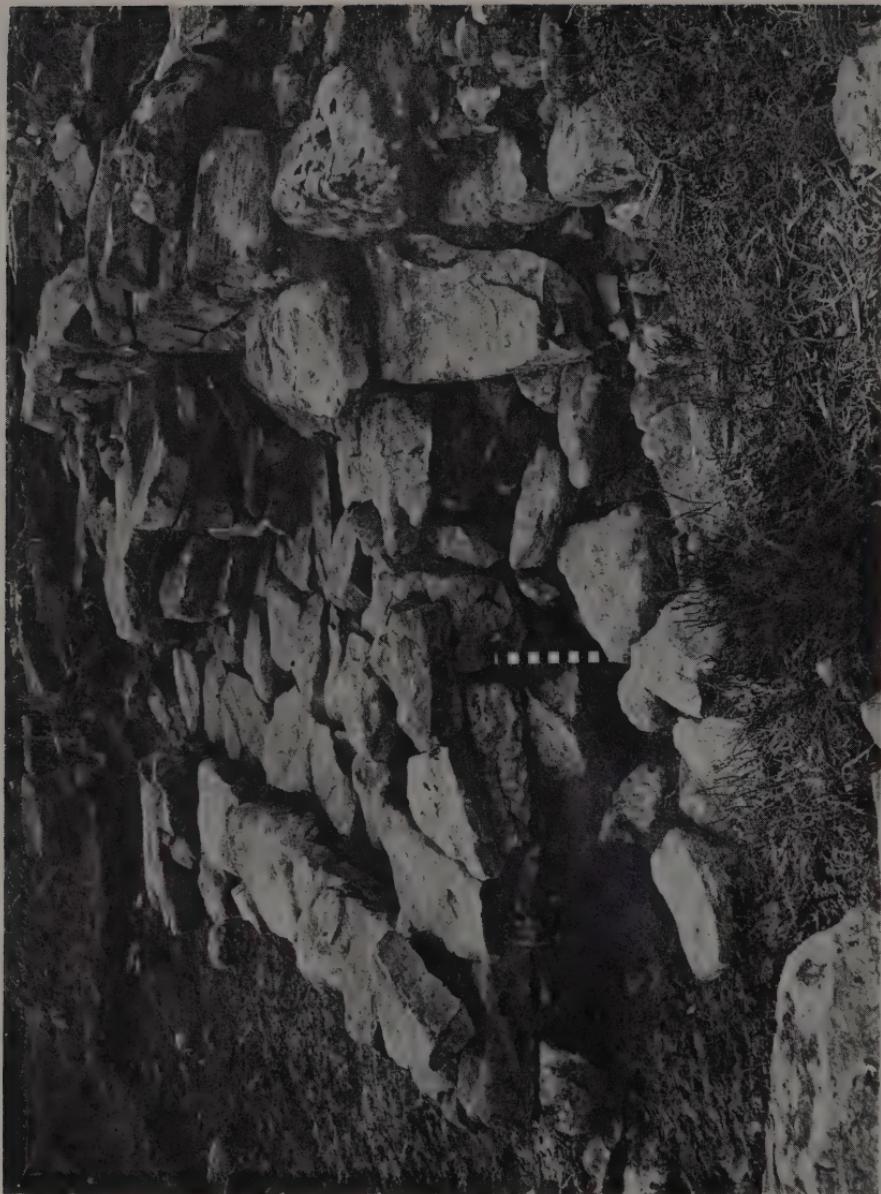
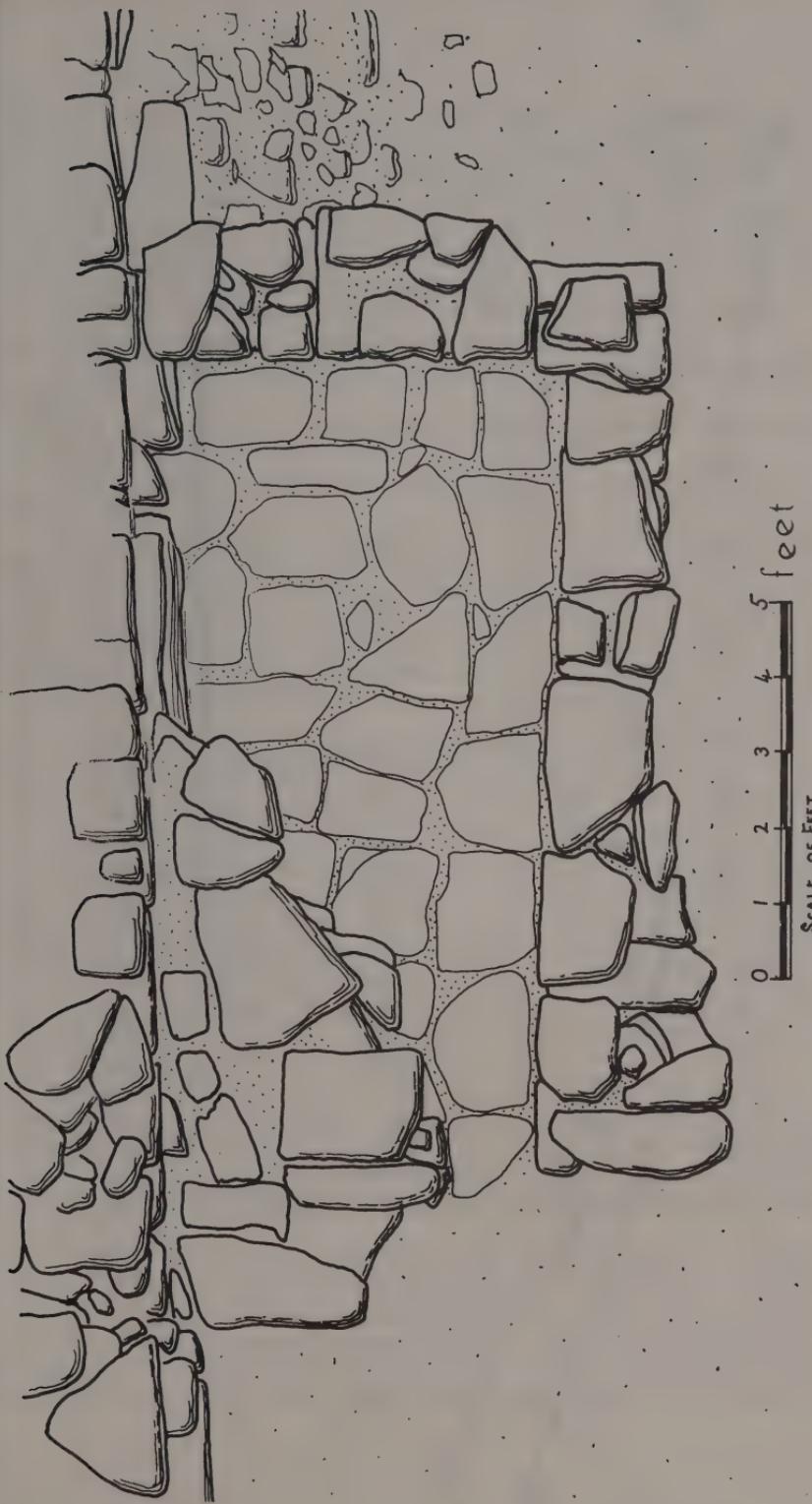


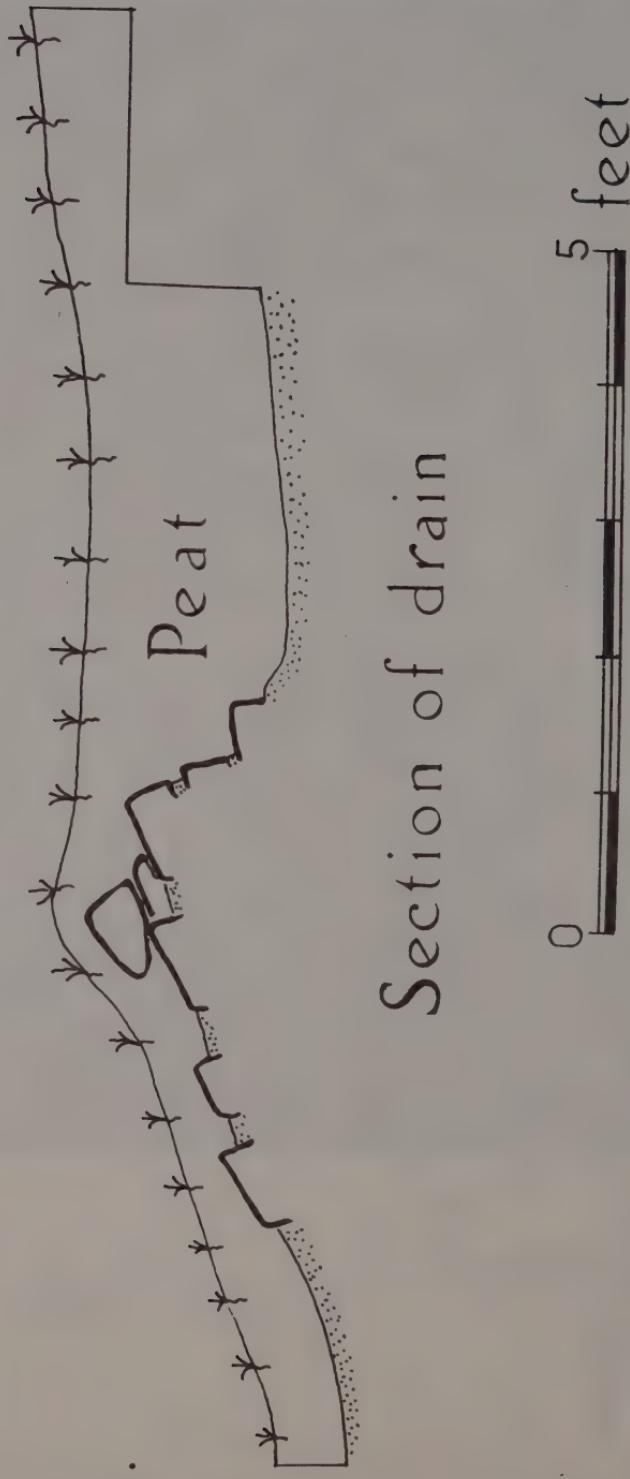
Plate 4. Northeast wall of 'hut', built over rubble from barn. Paving and 'platform' visible beyond.

RUDLAND CLOSE, THE "HUT" Fig. 4.



# RUDLAND CLOSE

Fig. 5.



portion of the "yard" also. The tumbled stone from the walls lay just below the surface, and the whole area was stripped and cleaned before any of this was moved. As usual the most difficult task was the removal of the matted mass of incredibly tough bracken root which encased each individual stone. In fact this has been a major difficulty in all the work done so far, and much archaeological damage must have been caused by its growth.

Very soon it became apparent that three different periods of building were involved, and these are as follows:

1. The "yard" adjoining the barn, with a 12' wide entrance in its south-western end.
2. A rectangular building tacked onto the end of this "yard" blocking the entrance.
3. A slightly smaller and cruder structure erected partly over and partly within '2'.

The "yard" appears to be contemporary with the barn, and excavations at the junction of the north-western walls of these two features show them to be of one build, bonded together with the end wall of the barn. Also structural similarities exist, as at the western corner of the yard where the inner face of the wall is of the same orthostatic construction as is found in the barn. The entrance in the south-western end again fits in with the plan of the barn, although its great width (the entrance from "yard" to barn is only six feet wide) is not so easily explainable. It is not possible to say at present whether any post-holes occur within this entrance, as the walls of period '2' have not yet been removed.

The period '2' house measured 28' by 14' internally, and seems to have had one pair of crucks set close to the centre point. The stylobates for these still remain, (Fig. 7., Plate 5.), though there is no other evidence for timber work, and we must assume that the ends of the roof were supported by stone gables. A doorway was sited in the south-west wall just south of the cruck. No internal partitions or fittings were found, with the exception of a "hearth-stone" placed rather off-centre towards the northern corner, and nothing that could confidently be called a floor level.

The "hearth-stone" was reddened on its upper surface, which showed signs of spalling consistent with its having been subjected to heat. A fine crack was visible, dividing it into two portions, and again heat was probably responsible. The sandy soil on which it rested showed no signs of discolouration, and only small specks of charcoal were present.

The only point at which anything that could be called a floor level appeared was at the extreme south-east end, between the walls of periods '2' and '3'. This lay immediately below the fallen stone of period '2', and near the eastern corner. It consisted of a flat level surface of compacted soil, brownish in colour and very hard. The effect was probably accentuated by the beginnings of a deposition

of iron pan. The only finds from this building were two very small sherds of green-glazed pottery. These came from near the centre, and from their level it would seem likely that they were deposited at some time during its occupation, although in the absence of any visible stratification it is not possible to be sure.

There were obvious differences in the construction of the walls of periods '1' and '2', the main one being in their thickness. Period '1' walls were up to three feet thick in places, and seldom less than 2'6", whereas period '2' walls were only about 1'9" to two feet. Also they lack the orthostats of period '1', and are clearly separated by the butt-joints at the north and east corners. This "house", after an unknown period of occupation, eventually fell into decay and collapsed, the south-eastern gable falling outwards. It seems likely that there was then a gap in occupation, at least on this part of the site, until period '3' was built. This was a much cruder structure, and in plan is an exact parallel to a type of Cumbrian shieling dated 1600 to 1680! It is smaller than period '2', and its N.E. and S.W. walls are sited within the earlier building. The construction of the walls is similar, but the original doorway was now blocked, and a new one made leading into the "yard" to the east. This had a stone threshold fitted flush with the inner face of the wall. No dating evidence was found, but as stated above it can be dated typologically to the 17th century.

The hearth of period '2' would seem too close to the re-sited doorway to be serviceable, but there was no trace of a later one.

#### THE BARN - THE SOUTH-WEST ENTRANCE.

The south-west wall of the barn was also excavated at this time, exposing the entrance, (Fig. 8., Plate 6.), which was rather narrower than might have been expected. Although a certain amount of robbing had taken place it was still possible to define its width as six feet. Another peculiarity was the narrowness of the wall. Although bonded into the three feet thick side walls - at least on the north - it measured less than two feet itself. This was surprising for it is not unusual for the gable wall of a building of this type to be heavier than the sides, and often it is also buttressed. Yet here the reverse was the case, and in a wall already weakened by a six feet wide doorway. It would seem very doubtful whether this was ever a full gable, and probably the roof was hipped.

None of these trenches was excavated to completion, and at the end of the dig all exposed surfaces were covered with polythene sheeting before backfilling took place. It is hoped to continue work on this site when funds and time permit.

## HISTORICAL NOTES.

It has not been possible to identify the site in any of the documents so far examined, but it does appear that St. Mary's Abbey, York, held extensive rights over the area concerned. The only direct evidence for sheepfolds is in the reference to those of Hugh Bigot in the late 13th century. There is one other item which may be of significance - the collection of tithes of wool and lambs in Spaunton Lordship.<sup>2</sup> As mentioned below, the building at Rudland Close is basically similar in design to a monastic tithe-barn, and it would be fairly centrally placed for the moorland sheep-runs.

### Documentary references:

(a) 12th century: i) Gift by Geoffrey, Abbot of St. Mary's to Gospa-  
rick son of Waltheof and his heirs of a carucate  
of land in Hutton, rendering 2s. yearly and for  
tallage as much as would be rendered by  $\frac{1}{3}$  car-  
ucate in Kirby Misperton. Grantees to keep no  
woodland mares nor a sheepfold for more than  
60 sheep.  
(1121-37. Early Yorks. Charters IX, Stuteville  
Fee, p. 220.)  
(The Gospapatrick mentioned is Gospapatrick of Braw-  
by, ancestor of a family known by the names of  
Brawby, Ridale and Habton.)

ii) Gift by the same of 'as much in wood and plain,  
moor and pasture, ponds and waters....for his  
eighth carucate in Hutton as any other carucate  
of the vill had, with pannage of his own men, an  
eighth part of the agistment of swine of strangers,  
the Abbot to have the other 7/8 and 1/8 share of  
the sale of wood.'  
(E. Y. C., IX, p. 221.)

iii) Henry II gave the Abbey all his wood between  
the Dove and Seven, 'as they held it before it  
was a forest', with custody of the forest, and  
forbade his foresters to enter it.  
(Vic. Co. Hist. (Yorks.) II, p. 242.)

iv) Gift by Hugh, son of Baldric, to Abbey of 'eight  
carucates in Hutton, with appurtenances, from  
the Dove to the boundary between Spaunton and  
Hutton (Loskey Beck) and on the moors as far  
as the boundary with Cleveland'.  
(E. Y. C., IX, p. 219.)

(b) 13th-14th centuries:

v) 1276. Inq. P. M. on Joan de Stuteville: '...in the  
moor, 20s., where were the sheepfolds of Hugh  
Bigot'. (Bigot was her second husband).

vi) 1278-81. Prior of Novo Burgo was summoned

to explain by what right he claimed to have common pasture in Hoton under Heth in the King's forest of the Syvenis and the Duve. Alan de Walkingham on behalf of the Crown stated that the forest was then occupied by Hugh de Bygot at the time of the intrusion and demanded an inquiry on behalf of the Crown.

(P.R.O. Plac. quo Warranto, 7-8 and 9 Ed. I (1278-81).)

vii) 1279. Final agreement between Abbey and Baldwin de Wake concerning occupation made by Hugh Bigot and other disputes in Hutton. Baldwin accepted 500 marks in settlement.

(Chronicle of St. Mary's (Surtees vol. 148) p. 20.)

viii) 1280. Case brought to court between Abbey and Newburgh 'de communi pastura iuxta Hoton le Hey'.

(Ibid.)

ix) Grant from William, Prior of Newburgh to Simon Abbot of St. Mary's, 'of free chase of all manner of beasts... beyond the water of Duve by the bridge and ford of Lownewath as far as the pasture of the aforesaid Prior in the forest of Farndale...' (St. Mary's Chartulary, Minster Library, York, f 176 v.)

x) 'De Foresta de Spaunton'. Royal confirmation of ~~Abbeys~~ rights between Dove and Syvene, and appointment of Abbot as custodian of the forest 'as in the days of King Henry my grandfather'.

(Ibid. f 177)

xii) 1335. Edward III granted the Abbey all venison in Spaunton Forest in exchange for tithes of venison in Forest of Galtres, and licensed Abbey to cultivate the Forest.

(Cal. Pat. 1334-8, p. 190)

## CONCLUSIONS.

It is apparent that this site was of an agrarian nature, and in view of its geographical location and general layout it was probably not arable.

The enclosure itself may have been rough pasture - even now the vegetation within it is noticeably different to that of the surrounding moor, having much larger proportions of bog-grasses and bracken. No traces of ploughing are visible, and although it is very wet and boggy there are remains of drains within it, some of which have been re-cut and extended by keepers in modern times. Given constant attention these should have been effective in keeping the area

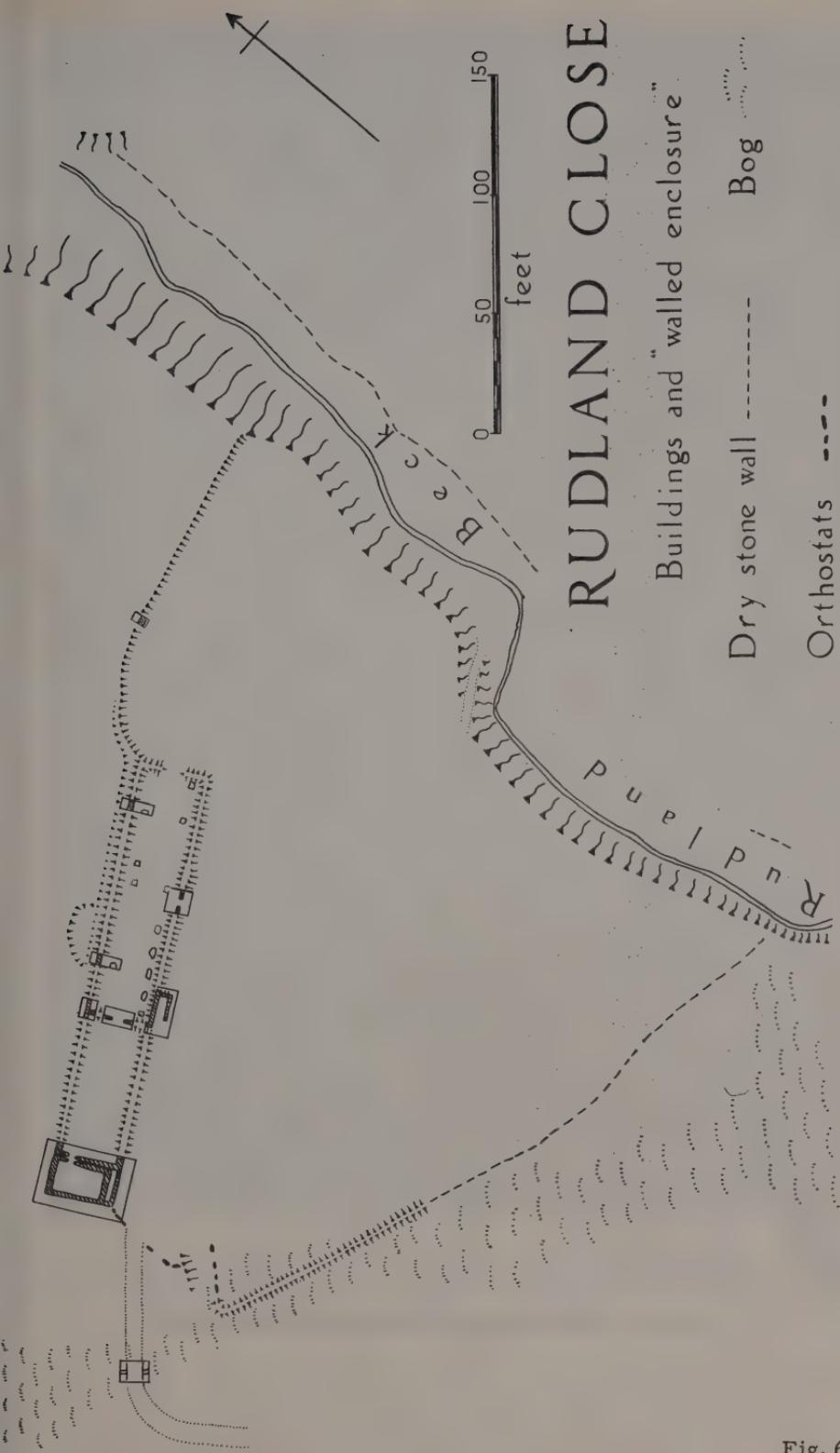
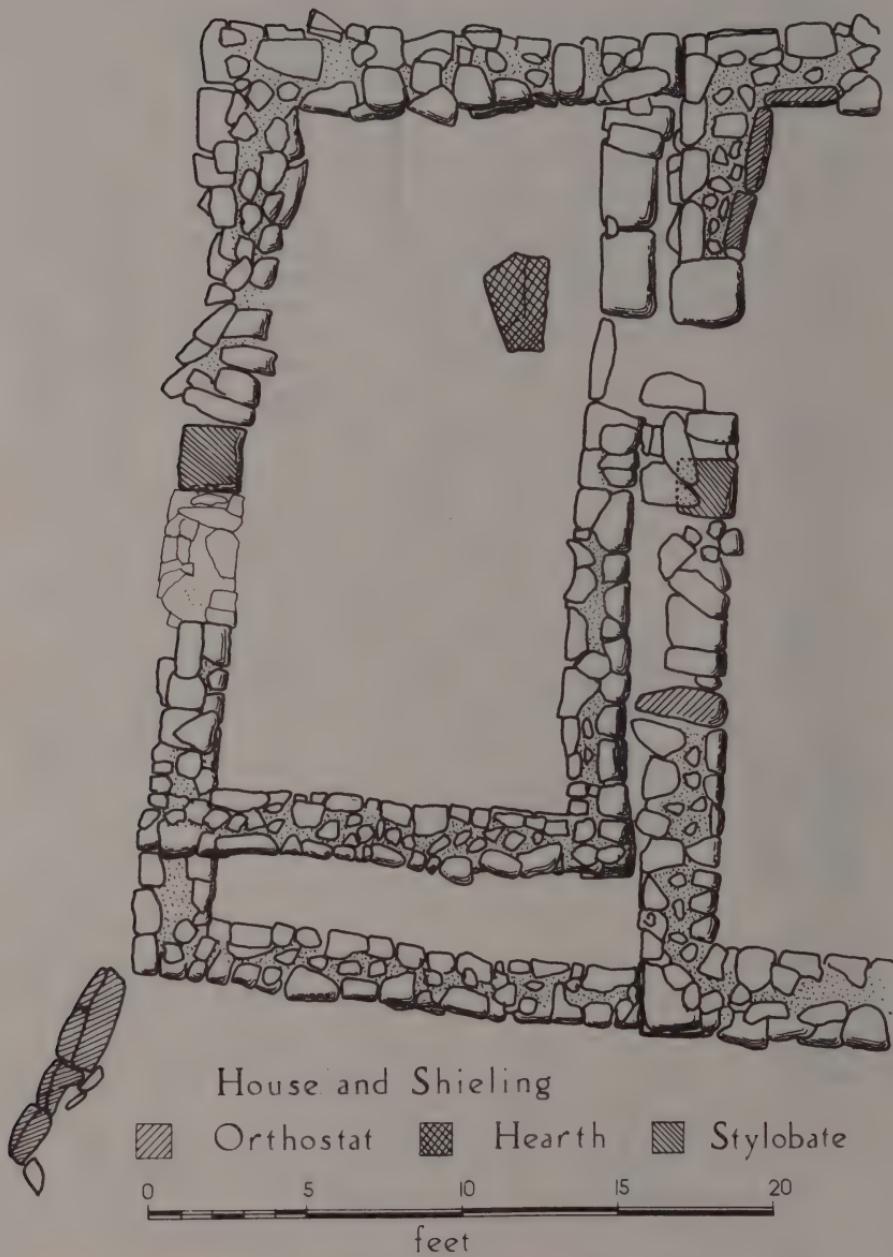


Fig. 6.

# RUDLAND CLOSE

Fig. 7.



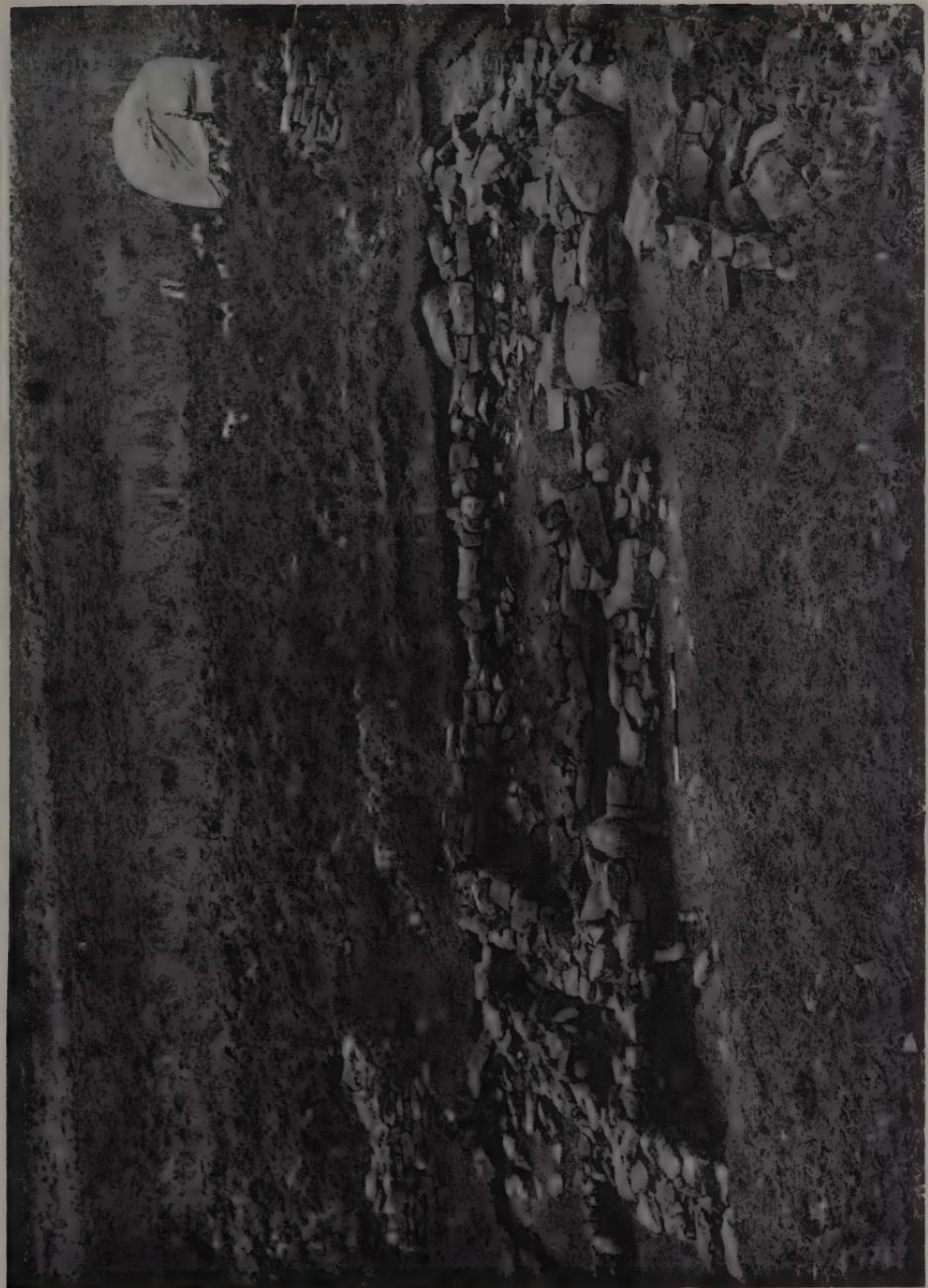


Plate 5. "House" with 'shieling' superimposed, facing S.W. from yard.  
Stylobates and part of hearthstone visible.

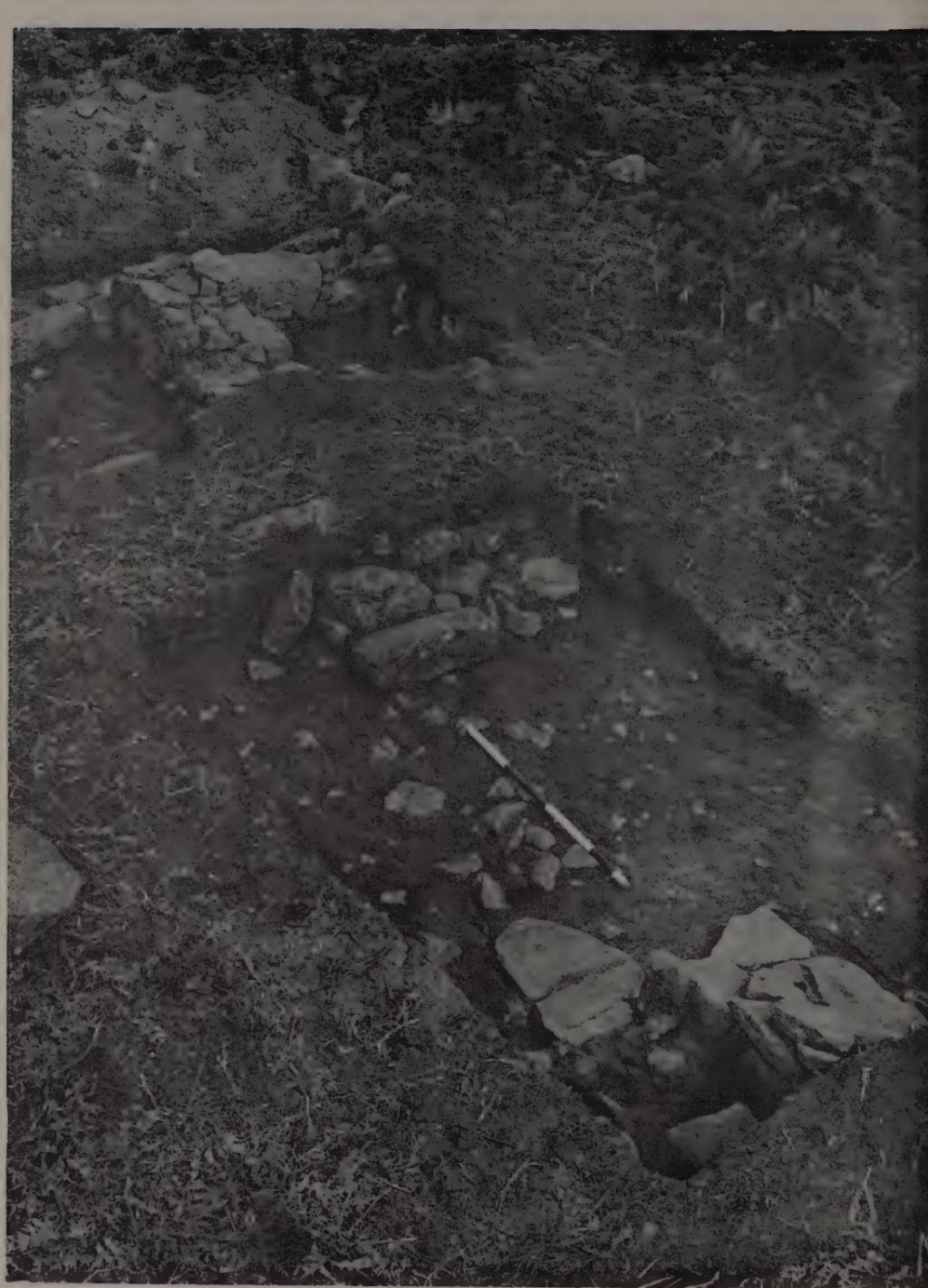
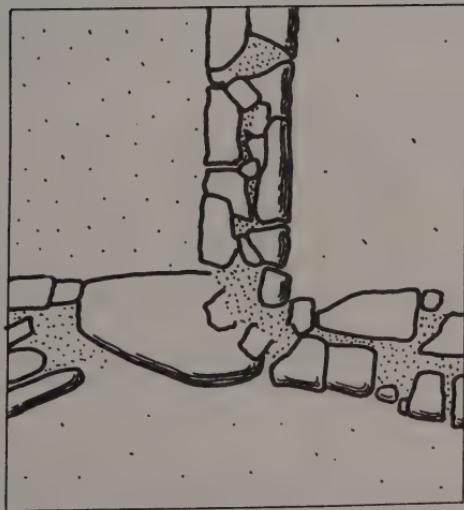


Plate 6. Southwest entrance to barn, facing north.

# RUDLAND CLOSE

Fig. 8.



S.W. Entrance of Barn



0 5 10 15 20 feet

reasonably dry, especially as most of the land slopes quite steeply towards the beck.

The first period of building would seem to have consisted of the barn, with the "yard" to the west of it, the "walled enclosure" south and east of these, and the large ditched enclosure. The barn, yard, and "walled enclosure" all have some orthostatic work in them, and what seems to have been the original entrance to the latter, situated some 50' south of the "house" is of the same type as that in the eastern side of the large enclosure. This is ideally sited and designed for driving livestock into, and in the absence of any trackway leading to or from it this would seem to be a tenable explanation.

The most important structure on the site is the barn, and an explanation of its function would provide the key to the whole establishment.

Was it a shephouse, possibly monastic, and the enclosure a winter pasture? Large aisled barns were fairly common in late medieval times, and monastic tithe-barns were often of this pattern, so that there is also the possibility that it was a centre for the collection of tithes in wool and lambs by St. Mary's Abbey in York.

Although aisled barns are well-known, this particular example was of unusual plan, suggesting perhaps that it was built to fulfil some special purpose, and this could well have been connected with sheep as little seems to be known about the practical side of this industry. Trow-Smith<sup>3</sup> refers to monastic shephouses up to 100' long being built in the 14th century, and even earlier, in the 12th., one 14' wide and 22' high suggesting storage space above. At Rudland Close one reason for the wide nave could be to bring down the tie-beams to a lower level, thus giving a wider span and more headroom for an upper floor. Also the short "half-bays" of eight feet or so would mean extra support for the increased load. If such a floor ever existed it could have provided storage space for fodder and sleeping accommodation for humans.

Whatever its purpose the establishment seems to have thriven at first for the next stage was the building of the cruck "house" onto the S. W. end of the "yard", perhaps to give the custodian more luxurious accommodation than was afforded by the barn. One advantage of this would be a fireplace for heat and cooking. Unfortunately no reliable dating evidence has so far been found, the best being the two minute sherds mentioned above which give a rather shaky 14th to 15th century date for the occupation of the house. It is possibly to this period that the stone culvert discovered in the bog belongs, access originally being by way of a ford opposite the entrance farthest from the house site.

There is no means of telling at present how long this site functioned in its original form, but there is evidence that it had degenerated almost beyond recognition by the 17th century. At this period it appears to have consisted of the shieling and hut, the barn being in an

advanced state of decay, and if any use was being made of it at all it was as an open fold-yard.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

My thanks are due to the following people, without whose help this excavation could not have been carried out.

Mr. G. W. Darley, Lord of the Manor of Spaunton, for giving us permission to dig.

Mr. S. E. Thomas, Department of History (Archaeology), University of Leicester, Mr. T. Garfield and members of the technical staff of the department of Geography, University of Leicester, and Mr. L. Hutchinson and Mr. P. Barton, Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, Helmsley Castle, for loans of tools and equipment.

Mr. J. McDonnell for his work in arranging accommodation for volunteers and acting as Public Relations Officer, as well as providing transport during the excavation.

Mrs. Speck and the Y.H.A. for providing accommodation and advertising for volunteers.

Mr. J. Grayson for providing transport and tools.

Mr. H. Ramm of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for information about his work on Cumbrian shielings.

Mr. J. McDonnell, Mr. J. Harvey (Royal Com. on Hist. Mons.), and Mr. R. H. Hayes for help in historical research.

Mr. J. Rutter of Scarborough Museum for loan of aerial photographs.

The Helmsley Group of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society for financial aid, and to the Treasurers Mr. and Mrs. Allenby, for their practical help and interest.

#### NOTES

1. H. Ramm, Plans of Shielings in Cumberland. To be published by Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.
2. Public Record Office. Lists and Indexes - Supplementary Series. No. III, Vols. 1-7. List of the Lands of Dissolved Religious Houses. (Kraus Reprint Corporation. 1964. Vol. 4 page 214.)
3. Trow-Smith, A History of British Livestock Husbandry to 1700, page 114.

The portrait of Jane Crosland, Lady Vavasour, here reproduced, was purchased at a London sale room in the spring of 1965. A label on the back stated that the picture had been the property of Sir H. M. Vavasour, Bart., and a pencil scrawl indicated that it had been hung over a hall door, presumably at Hazlewood Castle, the seat of the Vavasours.<sup>1</sup> Most of the contents of the castle were dispersed early in the present century.

The painting, which is in its original carved frame, measures the conventional 30"x25". Recent cleaning and restoration has shown it to be in a perfect state of preservation. The sitter is depicted at an advanced age and the portrait is a most telling characterisation. Her right elbow rests on a volume labelled "Thomas a Kempis"; her dress is purple and her veil grey.

The style points to its being a late work by Sir Godfrey Kneller, who, incidentally, would have been about the same age as the sitter, but retained his powers of draughtsmanship until the very end of his life. The drawing is brilliant if a trifle slick and the paint thin in application. The painting is in fact unsigned but Sir Godfrey, who was associated more usually with the Whig faction, perhaps found it more diplomatic to omit his signature from the portrait of this Catholic Lady. If it is by Kneller, a visit to London is indicated as he would have been unlikely to have travelled to Yorkshire at that time.

Jane was the second daughter of Sir Jordan Crosland and Bridget Fleming, baptised at Helmsley, 26th December 1649, and doubtless named after her courageous grandmother, Jane Crosland.<sup>2</sup> She married Walter Vavasour of Hazlewood, who succeeded his father as 3rd Baronet in 1679. The union was an extremely happy one in spite of the loss of an only son Jordan Thomas, who is commemorated with a stone on the chapel floor, with the comment "The Lord has given, The Lord has taken, The Lord's name be ever blesst". The chapel was extensively restored and refurbished by Sir Walter, who provided the alter-piece, alter-rails and coved ceiling in the taste of his period. The Priest in charge at this time was George Crosland, the brother of Lady Vavasour, who died on 12th October 1729, and was buried in the chapel. Sir Walter died on 16th February 1712-3. His Will, dated 12th March 1695-6 and preserved in the Borthwick Institute, York, tells of his deep affection for his wife, to whom he leaves most of his estate including the manor of Long Addingham. However, in the event, his widow continued to reside at Hazlewood, which had passed to his successor. A most imposing monument remains in the chapel depicting the reclining figure of Sir Walter, in contemporary dress and periwig, with his mourning lady kneeling beside him, thus providing a second portrait of her.

There are some errors in Foster's genealogical table of the Vavasours (Yorkshire Pedigrees) and a generation is telescoped by two Peter Vavasours being confused. The rightful heir to the baronetcy was Walter Vavasour's son of Peter Vavasour, M.D. and Elizabeth



JANE CROSLAND, LADY VAVASOUR (1649-1731) by Sir Godfrey Kneller

Langdale, and grandson of another Peter Vavasour, brother of the 2nd Baronet. Walter was in fact a Jesuit priest and did not use the title, which was however used, by courtesy, by his brother Peter, who took up residence at Hazlewood.

Sir Peter, as he was known, had married another Jane Crosland, the daughter of the older Lady Vavasour's eldest brother John and Barbara Grimston. This Jane was baptised at York on 5th March 1679. According to a statement by Sir Peter they had been married for twenty years before Sir Walter's death, but this must be an over-estimate. There were four children of this marriage, which was disastrous and

X ended in a major scandal when Lady Vavasour eloped with Sir Peter's steward William Parker. In the ensuing case for divorce, in 1715, there were numerous depositions by servants and others attesting to acts of adultery committed by Jane and Parker. There is incidental mention of the older Lady Vavasour in one of these; she apparently surprised the guilty pair one day in Jane's bedroom, Parker being hastily concealed in the closet. On another occasion the couple stayed for a few days in the house of Jane's mother, then absent, at York. This confirms the reference to Mrs. Crosland in the list of non-jurors in 1715. From these papers, which are preserved in the Borthwick Institute, the younger Lady Vavasour does not emerge in a very wholesome light, but, in fairness, only a small fragment of her defence survives. In her turn, she accuses Sir Peter of being usually drunk and consorting with low company. After many cruel acts, he finally turned her out of the house, forbidding either servants or tenants to assist her, and forcing her to seek shelter in the neighbouring woods. Eighteenth Century husbands were not renowned for consideration and there were probably grave faults on both sides. Sir Peter died on 9th January 1735 at the age of 68.

The elder Lady Vavasour died on 17th April 1731, and was buried at her own request at Hazlewood. A tablet in the floor records: "Hic jacet corpus Dominae Janae Vavasour quae obiit 17 Aprili 1731. Aetatis Suae 83". Her Will (Borthwick Institute) dated 27th October 1730, implies a kind and tolerant character. There are bequests to her nephew Henry Crosland, her niece Dorothy Langdale, daughter of Philip Langdale and her sister Dorothy, and a further nephew, Jordan Langdale.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to acknowledge the kind help of Father Hugh Aveling, O.S.B., in the preparation of this article.

#### NOTES

1. A full account of Hazlewood Castle and its chapel appears in "Country Life", vol. CXXII, p. 1380 et seq., p. 1426 et seq. The illustrations include one of the monument to Sir Walter and Lady Vavasour.
2. Cf. A History of Helmsley, Rievaulx, and District (Stonegate Press York, 1963) p. 152-161 for the Croslands of Helmsley.
3. In Wootton's English Baronets (1727), there is no mention of Sir Walter, the 4th Baronet. "Sir Walter Vavasour, Bart.,.. was succeeded by his nephew (sic) Sir Peter Vavasour (son of Peter Vavasour Doctor in Physick, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Philip Langdale, of Langthorp, in Com. Ebor, Esq.) Which Sir Peter was the twenty first generation in a direct line from Sir Mauger le Vavasour.....He married -----", the name of his wife being omitted for obvious reasons!

West

East

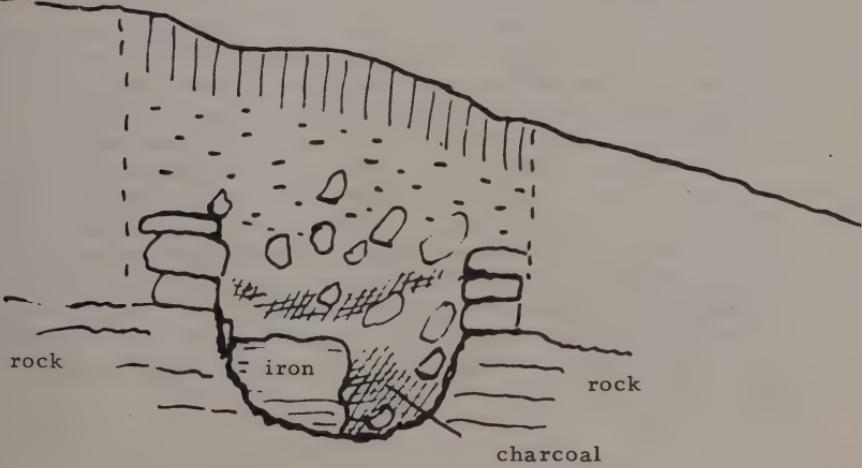
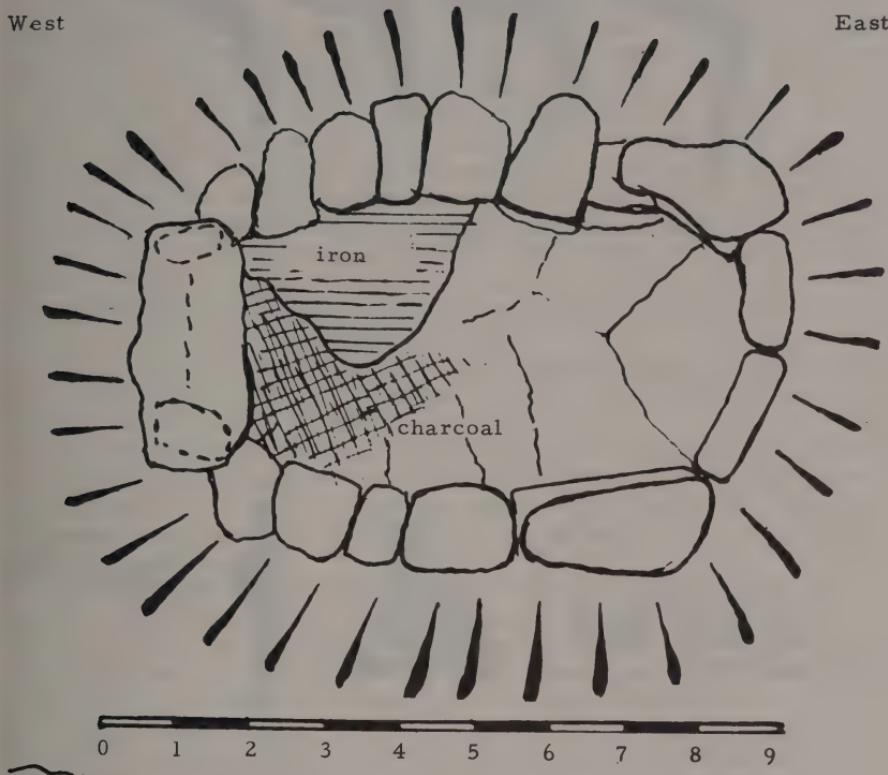


Fig. 1, Medieval Bloomery, Glaisdale. Excavated by G. Harland

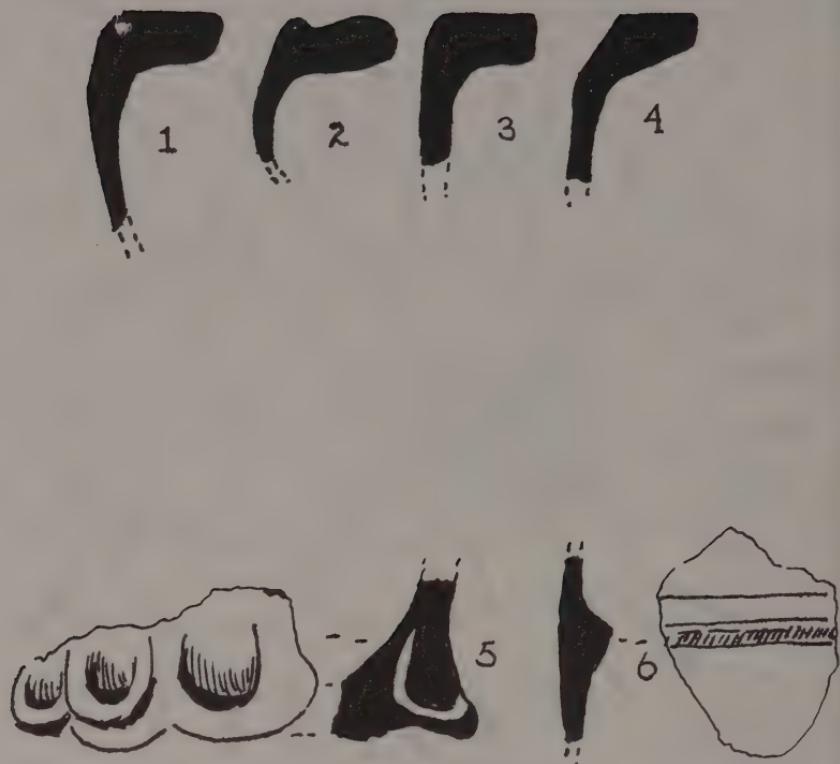


Fig. 2, Medieval Sherds, Postgate Bloomery

The first record of iron smelting in Glaisdale is in 1223, but how long it was in operation before that we do not know. There are at least ten known sites where the work was carried on, four on the Egton side of the beck and the remainder on the Glaisdale side.

The site at Postgate Hill, (Grid. Ref. NZ 759045) is the only one known to have been carefully excavated. This was done recently by George Harland. He found it crudely built in local stone bedded in clay, but a small part had been hewn out of the natural rock. (Fig. 1) He thinks there was a flue or air-inlet at the burning end of the bloomery formed by hard moorstones which were burned red, but had withstood the heat. This flue had its outlet at ground level and could be regulated easily by placing a stone flag over the outlet which could be moved to increase or reduce the draught at will.

When the firing had finished the slag (approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick) was at the top and the iron at the bottom. The iron was then drawn out and beaten into shape.

Other bloomeries had been based in the same area, one of which had at sometime been excavated, but most of the stones had been taken away. The natural clay was heavily burned where it had stood. Dr. Tylecote of Newcastle University found a fingerprinted piece of pottery on this site (NZ 759046).

The area covered by slag on Postgate Hill is about 50 yards by 50 yards, showing that work was carried on on a large scale.

Several sherds were found by George Harland and by Georgina Stainthorpe, as the latter sifted the throwout. According to Raymond Hayes four rims of cookpots in buff and grey ware are all variations of the rectangular type. (Fig. 2., and Scarborough Archaeological Society Report, medieval pottery, Fig. 5, type 39.) Number 1 is similar to Staxton ware 1250 to 1300; No. 4 is green-glazed as is the body sherd with applied cordon, No. 6. No. 5, fingerprinted base in reddish buff, is from a common 13th to 14th Century type of jug.

In 1223 Peter de Brus, Lord of the Manor of Danby gave a parcel of land to the Austin Canons of Guisbrough, which included the north side of Glaisdale west of the old post road. The road runs from the beck past Postgate Farm, so the land given probably included the bloomeries. But quarrels arose between the Canon's men and their neighbours, particularly over de Brus's hunting activities. There was a prolonged lawsuit and eventually Peter's successor, Marmaduke de Thweng gave the Canons a smaller parcel of land of which the boundaries were the beck, the old post road, the sike called Lorteburnsike and Mireheved. The two last named places have so far not been identified, though Mireheved might be the Swang, which is very marshy.

The small span of arch-stones now bridging nothing more than a shallow grassy depression in the middle of the village green, has long been a feature of the pretty village of Sinnington, between Kirkby Moorside and Pickering. Last year, it became apparent that the movement of at least two stones in the arch would soon force a decision either to demolish or to restore the structure. To their credit, the Parish Council decided to attempt the latter, and in the course of the summer of 1965 volunteer labour prepared the bridge for mason-work. Turf was cleared from the approaches and suitable stone was obtained from Rosedale; apart from essential replacements the Council had in mind the possibility of restoring at least part of the parapets which old photographs (in the possession of Mr. J. H. Dowson, and at the Post Office in Sinnington) show to have stood three courses high above the surviving arch-stones.

The clearance of turf revealed a number of interesting features. Approach causeways walled with freestone and rubble-filled show, on the west side, part of a surviving course of parapet stones, with an indication of terminal pillars. These causeways widen from the 6'4" overall width of the bridge to some 8' (see scale drawing by Mr. J. P. Utley). At the east side of the bridge, 14' from the arch, the causeway is overlaid by a short stretch of cobbled surface 9' wide. On this side of the bridge too, just short of the cobbles and on the south side of the causeway, an earlier masonry verge swings out at an angle considerably south of east, from under the latter walling; on the north side here too, this same course protrudes slightly. The surface of this earlier road-level appears to be of crushed limestone. However, the causeway can scarcely have been a cart-road at any time, since not only are there no traces of wheel-marks on the arch-stones, but the bridge proper, with its parapets in position, would have given scarcely more than 4' width of clearance.

Members of the Helmsley Archaeological Group obtained permission from Mr. G. R. Howe, Chairman of the Parish Council, to investigate the structure of the bridge a little further while the site was opened up. On a very wet afternoon it was only possible to clear the footing at the S.W. corner of the arch, but the depth of this footing below the present ground level clearly shows that, in addition to dumped household refuse, a considerable depth of clay and alluvial soil had been washed over that part of the green in the frequent floodings of the River Seven. The bridge, in fact, started life as a fairly high, hump-backed structure, with a segmental arch; though much smaller in scale, it is nevertheless comparable in profile to Beggar's Bridge and other packhorse bridges surviving in Eskdale, on the other side of the North Yorkshire Moors.

The approaches to the bridge were subsequently banked up so as to reduce the hump, by spreading fairly large stones on top of the causeways, in the angle between the causeway surface and the rising arch; some of this stone is still in place on the west side. The parapets,

which were probably contemporary with this banking-up, seem to have tumbled, or been removed, in stages (causeways first, then bridge, to judge from the photos mentioned above), near the end of the Nineteenth Century: local tradition has it that apart from a few large blocks still lying beside and under the bridge, the parapet stones were removed for use in a restoration of Kirkham Bridge (beyond Malton), by permission of the Sinnington overseer. In this connexion, we may note the coincidence that both Kirkham and the main bridge over the Seven at Sinnington were originally built by Robert Shout of Helmsley about 1768, and that the first mention of the small bridge on the green occurs in Quarter Sessions Records for 1769.<sup>1</sup>

Assuming that this documentation gives us the probable date of the small stone bridge, the question remains of why it was built. The 1769 reference to it describes the structure as a 'flood bridge' or 'flood arch'. It had to be repaired in that year at a cost of £6-18-2. Twenty-five years later it had to be rebuilt for £50. The present structure is therefore only 170 years old, and even in that time has undergone considerable modification. The sum of £50 is not large, however, even for a bridge of this size, and suggests that the rebuilding may have been only partial - probably using much of the previous stone and following similar specifications.

There were certainly two bridges at Sinnington as far back as 1616 when "certain wooden bridges called Synnington Bridges, over the river Seaven" were "in great ruin"<sup>2</sup>? And the bigger bridge at least already spanned the river in 1582, when the MS Qr. Sessions papers at Northallerton record a grant of £52 for the repair of 'Syningthwaite' Bridge. This makes sense, since the main Scarborough to Thirsk highway undoubtedly passed through Sinnington from very early times, and seems originally to have continued N.E. from the green, past the Hall and the Church, and gone out towards Wrelton along 'Nuns' Walk'. This being so, the small bridge is plainly on the line of the main road, and we may assume that its purpose was to provide dry passage, for foot and horse only, over a subsidiary waterway which vehicles had to ford (cf. Westerdale and other packhorse bridges, which have their paved ford alongside for wheeled transport).

But what exactly did this small bridge span? The likeliest explanation in view of the 1769 reference to a 'flood bridge', is that then at least it crossed merely a flood channel of the river; Sinnington residents on the south side of the green say that this channel can be traced running first south and then southwest, through the gardens and paddocks of their houses, and so back to the river.

However, Mr. R. H. Hayes and others have suggested that it spanned, originally at least, a mill leat. The site of an early mill at Sinnington has been much debated, but there is a clear reference to one, at the upstream end of the village, in a document of about 1180<sup>3</sup>, when Roger de Clere granted to the monks of St. Mary's Abbey, York - who owned the manor of Spaunton and much other local property - a right of way

for their wains and packhorses "from the ford on the road from Appleton to Sinnington down the valley to another ford near my mill, and so by the river bank ('per ripam aquae) through the middle of the town of Sinnington....". This, or at least a mill in Sinnington, is recorded as being ruinous in 1335,<sup>4</sup> but even if it was rebuilt on the same site, and its leat survived into the Eighteenth Century, there seems to be no reason for the tail race to have continued right through the village. However, Farrer<sup>5</sup> does assume an artificial channel of some sort in the village in 1205, when Ralph de Clere's widow confirmed a grant of land, this time to the Canons of Guisborough, "whereon to erect buildings extending from the chapel to the water(course) and in breadth from the chapel yard south to the highway". (The chapel referred to was that of St. Michael, which Farrer identifies with the site marked on O.S. maps to the N.E. of the village; the Latin from which Farrer translates the above extract is perhaps worth quoting: '...quae extenditur in longum a praefata Capella in aquam, et in latum a fossato Cimiterii ultimo versus austrum usque ad communem viam'.<sup>6</sup>)

It is at least possible, then, that some kind of leat or watercourse existed in Sinnington from early medieval times, and despite the depredations of the river, this may have survived as a flood channel until the Nineteenth Century. But it would seem more likely, if it were originally a mill-leat, that it was the head-race, not the tail-race, which crossed the green and the old highway; this in turn would suggest that it would be worth keeping an eye open for traces of a mill building on the south side of the green, along the line of the flood channel.

One final point deserves mention: because the bridge arch has hitherto been the only conspicuous feature on the green, it is possible that the causeway approaches have not been sufficiently taken into account. These must have stood originally some feet above the level of the green. It is worth considering whether their primary function was to provide a flood barrier protecting the lower end of the village (where plenty of people can remember United buses being stranded by a sudden overflow of the river). Only extensive excavation and careful study of the stratification revealed could confirm this; but such a function would not preclude the insertion of a 12' 'safety-valve' with a permanent return channel to carry flood waters back to the river below the village.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: The author is most grateful to Mr. J. P. Utley, who drew the plan, and also supplied much information from his store of knowledge of the history of Yorkshire bridges.

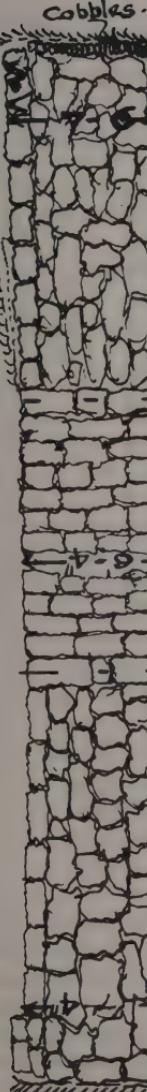
#### NOTES

1. Guisborough Sessions (MS Records), County Archives Northallerton.
2. North Riding Quarter Sessions, ed Atkinson, Vol. II, p. 123.
3. Early Yorks. Charters, ed Farrer, I, 467.
4. Chan. Inq. P. M. 9 Edw. III (1st nos.) 51. Quoted in Victoria County History, Yorks. North Riding, II, 489-92
5. Early Yorks. Charters, I, 468-9.
6. In Guisborough Chartulary (Surtees Soc.) II, 305.

# SINNINGTON FLOOD BRIDGE.

on 26-8-1965 after partial excavation.

Scale as 1 inch = 8 feet.



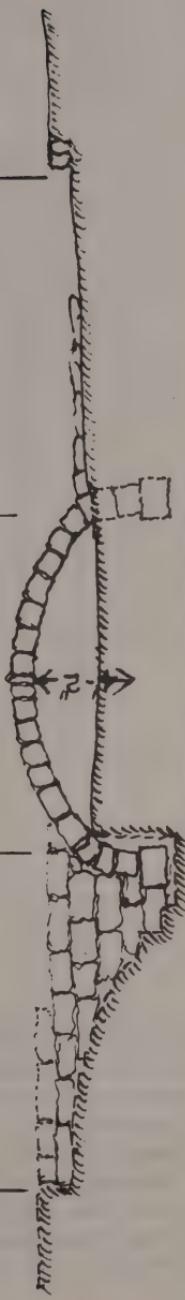
Excavation.

1'-4"

## PLAN.

14'-0" ————— 14'-0" ————— 14'-0" —————

Possible splay of original bridge.



ELEVATION - SOUTH SIDE.



Old Byland Church, East Elevation

Note the effect of the eccentric chancel upon the chancel arch (shown in pecked lines) and the east window. The chancel arch is placed centrally in respect of the nave with the east window behind it, but viewed from the chancel both are so far off centre as to be at the extreme south end of the wall. Note also the trace of the high old roof which clearly belonged to a chancel of similar eccentricity. The effects upon the medieval church must have indeed been unfortunate for not only must the ridges of the nave and chancel roofs have been out of line, but the problems encountered in building the west gable of the chancel can well be imagined.

## CONJECTURED EXISTENCE OF A PRE-CONQUEST CHURCH

It is generally believed that the church at Old Byland is derived from an original Norman structure, parts of which remain in the present building, but there are difficulties which are not easily resolved. The Norman architecture suggests an early period, but comparison with the neighbouring church at Scawton shows that here too the Norman work is primitive despite the fact that it is known to have been built in 1146. The church is thought by some to have been intimately connected with the Byland monks during their four year sojourn in the vicinity, but here the ground is very uncertain, for written record is not at all clear. We first hear of this band of wondering monks in the district at Hood near Sutton Bank where they settled for a while, then in 1143 it is said they were granted "The vill and church of Byland". This would imply that a church already existed at Old Byland at that time, but it is not clear whether the reference was to a stone church occupying the site of the present one, or to the wooden church of Domesday.<sup>2</sup> The exact location of the latter is not known, and although it could have occupied the present site, it may on the other hand have existed in the vicinity of Tile House (Tylas) where it is thought the monks settled. In any case the Domesday reference to a wooden church without mention of any other appears to confirm that no stone church existed at that time and that the present church must have been built after Domesday.

This leaves two alternatives: either a. the stone church was built sometime between Domesday (c. 1085) and the time of arrival of the Byland monks (1143), or b. it was the wooden church which was granted to the monks, and they or their near contemporaries built the present stone church. It seems clear therefore that the earliest period to which the church can be assigned is 1085, yet despite this there is certain evidence in the church itself which suggests the existence of something earlier substantially built in stone.

Such evidence is provided by a very eccentric chancel together with the distinct trace of an older roof upon the east wall of the nave. The present chancel is predominantly 15th Century at which time it seems to have been largely rebuilt. This is evidenced by the shallow roof which still retains the original principals, by the windows, two of which are original, and by the remains of the priest's door with its depressed arch. It is scarcely conceivable that an eccentric chancel with its unfortunate side effects would have been so built in the first instance and one can only think that an original concentric chancel was subsequently widened by moving out the north wall whilst retaining the south wall in situ. One might think that this was done during the major restoration of the 15th Century, but the trace of the older roof high over the present flat roof shows that this too belonged to a chancel of similar eccentricity. Since the trace of the older roof appears upon an original Norman wall, it follows that a supposed concentric chancel must necessarily have been earlier than that wall,

(had a Norman concentric chancel been widened at some subsequent period before the 15th Century, one would expect to find two roof lines slightly out of parallel, but since only one exists, this could not have been done). This leaves two alternatives; either an early Norman chancel was widened during late Norman times, or the original chancel was pre-Conquest.

The Norman architecture of the church suggests that the latter is more probable, for the plain chancel arch with its roll mouldings, primitive, pilastered capitals and shafts with crude ramshorn are characteristic of early Norman work. Furthermore, certain elements including a pair of impost stones combined with capitals, parts of shafts with spiral carving, and a moulded arch similar to that of the chancel, all of which undoubtedly belonged to the Norman south entrance, have been built into the recent tower, and these too suggest a very early period. All the evidence points to an original early Norman church - authorities are generally agreed on this- yet, as has been shown, the enlarged chancel suggests the existence of something earlier.

The conjecture demands that the south chancel wall should necessarily be the oldest part of the church, and curiously enough it is here where the most primitive work is to be seen. This occurs over the 15th Century priest's door where the voussoirs of a yet earlier doorway remain embedded in the wall. These are indeed of a primitive nature, consisting of undressed flat stones laid on edge to form a rough semicircle - quite out of character with the well developed arches of the Norman chancel and south entrance. It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest that these stones are Saxon and belonged to an original pre-Conquest church.<sup>3</sup>

Apart from the Domesday reference,<sup>4</sup> the main objection to the above is that when the chancel was widened during Norman times, one must admit what amounts to a virtual rebuilding of the Saxon church. Only the south chancel wall was left intact, and one may question why this was done, especially since its retention resulted in an eccentric chancel. But if one rejects the theory on these grounds how else can one explain the present eccentric chancel? It is inconceivable to imagine it having been so built in the first instance.

#### NOTES

1. From the narrative of Philip, 3rd Abbot of Byland. Dugdale, Mon. Angl. V.
2. "M (anor) In Begeland (Old Byland). . . . A priest is there, and a wooden church. . . . " From Domesday, see Vict. Co. Hist. Yorks. III, p. 257
3. The church does in fact possess an inscribed Saxon sundial. This however, is the only stone which may with certainty be assigned to so early a period and this alone is far from sufficient evidence of a pre-Conquest church.
4. There are of course, several conjectures which may be advanced to overcome the difficulties of the Domesday reference, but all of them would be pure guess work and as such, are not suggested here.

In a previous essay<sup>1</sup> an attempt was made to trace the history of Farndale from a time just prior to the Norman Conquest down to the middle of the 14th Century. At the latter date the manor of Kirkby Moorside, with Farndale as one of its appurtenances, was in the possession of Thomas, Lord Wake, holding it as sub-tenant of the Mowbrays. His main estates were in Lincolnshire and at Liddel in Cumberland and he was a generous benefactor to many religious houses. It is in this connection that I propose to examine in some detail a curious incident relative to Farndale.

In the year 1347, Lord Wake obtained

"Licence for the alienation of frank almoin..... to the Friars of the order of the Holy Cross, of a toft and ten acres of land in the moor of Blackhewe in Farndale for them to found a house of the order and build an oratory and dwelling houses."<sup>2</sup>

The Friars of the Holy Cross (Crutched, Crouched, or Crossed Friars) were not one of the four regular Mendicant Orders of Friars and they had considerable difficulty in obtaining recognition. They began to settle in York at the beginning of the reign of Edward II but, as Tanner puts it,<sup>3</sup> were 'discountenanced' by the Archbishop of York, who also closed their house in Kildale on land given to them by Sir Arnald de Percy. This was in 1313. It is generally assumed that the Friars never established themselves in Farndale. Tanner comments<sup>4</sup>

"what settlement they obtained there I know not", whilst the modern writer<sup>5</sup> of a lengthy and well-documented article on the Order states bluntly-

"two more failures occurred about the same time"-  
of which one was the attempt to found a house of the Order in Farndale.

"Wake", he goes on to say, "had no doubt to face the hostility of the Archbishop of York to his intended beneficiaries".

Thomas Wake died in 1349, two years after his grant of land in Farndale to the Crutched Friars, and in the post mortem inquisition into the extent of his estates there occurs this entry under the Manor of Kirkby Moorside:

"Farndale."

A house with a chapel of the brethren of Charity was of the advowson of the said Thomas, and the said brethren hold their tenements there of the said Thomas in frank almoin".

The question naturally arises as to who were these "brethren of Charity". Their full title is 'de Sancte Caritate' - "of Holy Charity". Extensive research has failed to find any reference whatever to an organisation or Order in medieval times known either as the Brethren of Charity or the Brethren of Holy Charity. The huge 'Catholic Encyclopaedia' has a lengthy article under the heading 'Charity' but no suggestion that there was ever a medieval Order of that name; and

there is no mention of it anywhere in the extensive writings of Dom David Knowles, the modern authority on religious orders and houses of this period. More cogently to the point, perhaps, is that a careful ransacking of the Charters and Patent Rolls of the period has brought to light no reference to any grant of land in Farndale to a religious community other than the one quoted above; and in the Middle Ages nobody alienated land in mortmain without licence from the king.

It is important to recognize that these 'Brethren of Holy Charity' really were there in Farndale; they had a house and a chapel there. It frequently occurred in the Middle Ages that religious bodies were granted land for building which they never in fact occupied. Thus the licence for this grant became 'abortive', and it was partly in an attempt to prevent this that Edward I passed the Statute of Mortmain in 1279. This clearly was not the case in Farndale and Chettle<sup>6</sup> is wrong when he suggests this.

Thomas Wake died childless, and the inheritance of his lands passed to his nephew John, Earl of Kent, who survived his uncle by only three years. It is in the post mortem inquisition on John's estates<sup>7</sup> that we learn he had the

"Advowson of the chapel of the brethren of the Holy Trinity" in Farndale. 'Trinity' for 'Charity' would appear to be a scribe's error, for in all succeeding inquisitions where it is mentioned, (and this is in several up to the reign of Henry VI) the word is uniformly given as 'Charity'.

Yet this use of the word 'Trinity' raises just a little speculation, for in the later Middle Ages there was some confusion in peoples' minds between the Trinitarians and the Friars of the Holy Cross. Dr. J. C. Cox suggested<sup>8</sup> that the two Orders could be identified. Chettle strenuously opposes this, yet he has to admit that "the confusion between the two Orders was old and persistent".<sup>9</sup>

Were, then, the Brethren of Holy Charity who had their house and chapel in Farndale, the same people as the Crutched Friars to whom Thomas Wake gave land in 1347? A categorical affirmative is impossible, but one suggests that the weight of the evidence bears heavily in that direction. Where they built their dwelling and chapel is a mystery which perhaps only the archaeologist can now solve. The only clue - and that a very slender one - to a possible location of the site is the phrase "in the moor of Blackhewe in Farndale". This would seem to rule out its location in the valley and tempts one to consider the possibility of the Lion Inn at Blakey as having been built on the site in question; but this is pure conjecture.

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Though the origin of the English parochial system is obscure, it seems very likely that in its early days the parish was more or less co-terminous with the bounds of the Manor. Farndale, as we tried

to show in the previous part of this history, was never part of the manor of Spaunton, but the east side of the dale was from an early date part of the parish of Lastingham, and remained so until 1873 when it was joined to Bransdale. The west side of the dale was always in the parish of Kirkby Moorside. Writing in 1913, the Rev. F. H. Weston says "the church of St. Mary (in Farndale) was built about 250 years ago as a chapel of ease to Lastingham".<sup>10</sup> That there was a chapel in Farndale long before that time, however, is proved by its being marked on Saxton's map 1577, and also by reference to it in the will of William Folancebye made on 3rd May 1537 -

" - also I bequeathe to Farnedall chapell ij torches and ij yowes".<sup>11</sup>

This is the earliest reference to a chapel in the dale which has yet come to light, but one wonders whether the Willelmus Clericus (William the Clerk) named in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1301<sup>12</sup> may have been the chaplain there.

In addition to this chapel, whenever it may have been founded, the medieval inhabitants of Farndale could worship in the chapel of ease at Gillamoor whose parent church was the parish church of Kirkby Moorside. Until the Dissolution the Prior and Convent of Newburgh Priory presented priests to both these churches, and it was for the repair of the church at Gillamoor that the Black Prince, in December 1363 ordered John Forestier, "keeper of the wood of Farendale..... to deliver an oak suitable for 'shengel' towards roofing (it)."<sup>13</sup> The famous warrior son of Edward III had come into possession of Farndale through his wife Joan who was the niece of Thomas Wake referred to above. Her son by Edward the Black Prince was Richard II.

Whatever changes of overlordship took place, however, the young men of the dale continued to prove an unruly lot. In 1371, the Prioress of Keldholm entered a complaint in the Court of Common Pleas against Thomas del Ker of Farndale -

"for breaking her close and houses at Morehous in Kirkebymoreshead, and taking goods and chattels to the value of 40s".<sup>14</sup>

In the following year John Porter (a relation perhaps of the 1301 Willelmus ad Portam), Hugh Bailly and Adam Bailly, ranging rather farther afield, were accused by William Latymer, of -

"entering his free chase of Danby.... hunting therein without licence and taking deer therefrom and assaulting his men and servants."<sup>15</sup>

In 1396, Robert de Wodde of Farndale was pardoned for the death of John Hawlare of Kirkby Moorside whom he killed there "on Monday the eve of the Purification, in the eighteenth year".<sup>16</sup> The Wood family appears thus early in Farndale records and their name occurs regularly on wills throughout the 16th and 17th centuries and subsequently on the rent rolls and field books of the Duncombe estate. The name

is still quite a familiar one in the district.

About the same period, in the closing years of the 14th Century, a certain Thomas Wolthwayt of Farndale was accused by Hugh Gascoigne, the parson of Stonegrave, of breaking into -

"his close and houses at Stonegrave, assaulting him, fishing in his several fishery there and taking away fish and goods and chattels to the value of 200 marks, as well as 1000 marks in money, and assaulting his men and servants".<sup>17</sup>

What perhaps astonishes us as much as anything in this passage is the extent of the parson's wealth, and one cannot help feeling that perhaps Thomas was entitled to a fish or two, at any rate!

Apart from these lawless natives of Farndale there were others who made the wild and lonely moors their haunt of crime. Such were John of Wighall and John Webster of Beverley who were indicted in 1361 as "common robbers and thieves" who "used to lie in wait on Blakey Moor".<sup>18</sup> The list of their crimes included robbing William Chapman of Battersby, draper, of five marks in silver, robbing John of Durham, at a spot in the moor near Ingleby Greenhow of 17s and 6d, and other similar attacks on wayfarers. They were both hanged.

With the turn of the Century came a radical change in the ownership of Farndale. For three centuries the Mowbray family had held it as tenants-in-chief, sub-letting it as we have seen, first to the Stutevilles and then to the Wakes as heirx of the Stutevilles. In 1397, Thomas Mowbray, the twelfth baron, was created 1st Duke of Norfolk, but in the following year he was accused of treason, was banished and his estates were forfeited. Thus the manor of Kirkby Moorside and with it Farndale reverted into the king's hands. The de Holand family Earls of Kent, were closely related to Richard II and it is not therefore surprising to find the manor given to them. It is in the inquisition post mortem held into the estates of Alice, late wife of Thomas late Earl of Kent, in 1415, that we read -

"The said Alice also held..... the advowson of the chapel of the Brethren of Holy Charity in Farndale, worth 10s a year".<sup>19</sup>

By 1422, however, when Henry VI came to the throne, Farndale had been assigned to Elizabeth Nevill, and for close on a hundred and fifty years the Nevills, as Earls of Westmorland, were lords of the manor.

It is unlikely, however, that changes 'at the top' materially affected the tenor of the daily life of the Farndale inhabitants. Like so many of their compatriots during this period they spent most of their time in agricultural pursuits as do their 20th Century descendants. There is no evidence either from the configuration of the ground or from the 18th Century field names that the three-field system of agriculture so beloved of school text-books historians, ever operated in Farndale. The chief crop was probably barley which they took to one or other

of the two mills in the dale. In the 1301 Lay Subsidy Roll only one miller is mentioned - Simon - but by 1334 there were two<sup>20</sup> and in 1553 when John Wood made his will he wrote -

"also I give to the mendyng of the upper mylne bridge iiiij pence and to the mending (sic) of the nether mylne bridge iiiij pence".<sup>1</sup>

The 'upper mylne' is the present site of High Mill, situated just below Church Houses, and the 'nether mylne' is, of course, the present Low Mill. Both these mills operated well into this century. They were naturally watermills, built on the banks of the Dove, but in 1560 there were also in the manor of Kirkby Moorside six windmills<sup>22</sup> and it would be interesting to know if any of them were built in Farndale.

In addition to agriculture there was also, at any rate by the middle of the 14th Century, sheep farming on a scale large enough to make it worthwhile for Yorkshire wool merchants to collect it. In 1361 two merchants, Roger de Hovingham and Thomas de Kerr of Ryedale, were arraigned before the justices on a charge of selling sacks of wool which were underweight. It was stated in the evidence that the wool came from Rievaulx, Malton, Kirkby Moorside, Helmsley, Bilsdale, Farndale and Hovingham.<sup>23</sup> It is interesting to note that neither Bransdale nor Rosedale are mentioned, and this is just one more indication to be added to a number of others to suggest that Farndale has always been of more historical importance than its sister dales.

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When, in 1569, the rebellion known as the Rising of the North had been crushed, the estates of its leaders amongst whom the Earl of Westmorland was one, were forfeited to the crown. Three commissioners were appointed by Elizabeth to survey these estates and this survey has become known by the name of the chief of these commissioners as Humberston's Survey. His account of the manor of Kirkby is full of interest, one of the most significant things being the clear contrast in wealth between the inhabitants of the dales and the town of Kirkby itself.

"The said lordship ..... extendeth into the towns, hamlets and dales of Farndale, Bransdale, Fadmore and Gillamoor... and is inhabited with many wealthy and substantial men and they have very good farms by reason of the great and large commons and wastes; and all the tenants except the town of Kirkby hold their farms and tenants by indenture for terms of years..... And the town of Kirkby is a market town inhabited all with poor people and they hold their cottages by copy of court roll..... and they have no lands or other commodities to their cottages".<sup>24</sup>

Who were the 'wealthy and substantial men' of Farndale? Perhaps the first was that Simon the Miller whose tax payment of 7s 9½d in

1301 was almost as much as that paid by all ten of the Bransdale contributors and greatly in excess of what the majority of the individual inhabitants of Ryedale paid. One assumes also that a certain William Thornburgh of Farndale who was appointed with four other commissioners in 1446<sup>25</sup> to levy and collect one of Henry VI's taxes throughout the North Riding, must have been a man of some standing and substance. And William Folancebye who, as we have seen earlier, left two torches and two ewes to Farndale chapel, bequeathed more substantial gifts to his relatives -

" - also I bequeathe to John Folancebye ii furred gownes, one furred with white lambe and the other with blacke lambe. Also I bequeathe to the said John Folancebye my sword, one velvet dublet, (and) my best horse.

- also I bequeathe to Robert Folancebye, my brother, one russet gowne".<sup>26</sup>

These possessions presumably were not those likely to belong to the ordinary husbandman of the 16th Century.

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In two essays an attempt has been made to cover some 500 years of Farndale's history, a period roughly embracing what we generally term the Middle Ages. There are many gaps in the account, of course, and some of the things which we would like to know are now past finding out. One wonders, for example, whether any Farndale men left their ploughs and oxen to follow Roger de Mowbray or Hugh Wake on crusade to the Holy Land; and if they returned with scars and other souvenirs to while away the winter evenings among their neighbours with strange tales of peril and adventure in the East. What havoc did the Black Death wreak amongst the dale's inhabitants? Or did the valley bear a charmed life hidden away amongst the hills, when so many other places in the land were smitten? We cannot answer these questions, though without doubt there is more information about medieval Farndale still hidden in the archives of the Public Record Office - and perhaps elsewhere - awaiting only the patience of the scholar to reveal it.

Though much of the picture is missing, however, we can perhaps hope that in these two articles some light has been shed on the lives of the people of Farndale in the Middle Ages. They emerge fairly recognisably, I think, as a sturdy and vigorous community increasing in independence as the long years of the medieval period unfold. Population statistics are unavailable, of course, since the days of the census were not yet. Such clues as we have, however, (e.g. the inquisitions p.m. into the estates of Joan Wake and her son Baldwin,<sup>27</sup> and the 1301 Lay Subsidy Roll)<sup>28</sup> suggest a population much greater than most of the other places of the North Riding; and at the end of the period under review Farndale could supply 83 men -

"archers and bill men horsed and harnessed (or) men on foot without horse or harness".<sup>29</sup> for the king's musters, third only to New Malton (206) and Helmsley (110) in the whole wapentake of Ryedale.

#### NOTE

The author would like to thank the Librarian of the Borthwick Institute, York, for allowing him to consult the Registers of Wills housed there, and for his courteous assistance; and also Miss A. Foster, Librarian of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds, who, apart from help in her professional capacity, has shown much interest in the subject and tolerance of the writer.

#### TEXT NOTES

1. Ryedale Historian No. 1. 1965
2. Calender of Patent Rolls, Edw. III, 1345-1348.
3. Tanner - Notitia Monastica p. 691
4. ibid.
5. H. C. Chettle in History New Series Vol. XXXIV p. 204 et seq.
6. ibid.
7. Calender of Inquisitions Post Mortem Vol. X. p. 50.
8. Vict. Cnty. Hist. Berks. Vol. II, p. 91.
9. Chettle op. cit.
10. Rev. F. H. Weston History of the Ancient Parish of Lastingham p. 61
11. Register of Wills in the Borthwick Institute, York.
12. Yorks. Arch. Soc. Record Series Vol. 21, p. 48.
13. The Black Prince's Register Pt. IV, folio 286d.
14. De Banco Rolls Trinity, 45 Edw. III.
15. Cal. Pat. Rolls Edw. III 1370-74.
16. Cal. Pat. Rolls Rich. II 1391-96. (p. 695)
17. Cal. Pat. Rolls Rich. II 1396-99. (p. 365)
18. Yorks. Arch. Soc. Record Series Vol. 100, p. 148/9.
19. Cal. Inq. P. M. 4 Henry IV 1415-16
20. North Riding Records Soc. New Series Vol. IV, p. 34
21. Register of Wills in the Borthwick Institute, York.
22. Feet of Fines, Michaelmas Term 1560, 2 & 3 Eliz.
23. Yorks. Arch. Soc. Record Series Vol. 100
24. Humberston's Survey in Yorks. Arch. Journal Vol. XVII.  
(Spelling modernised)
25. Calender of Fine Rolls Vol. XVIII 1445-1452
26. See note 11.
27. Ryedale Historian No. 1, p. 11
28. ibid. p. 12
29. Letters and Papers Foreign and Domestic Henry VIII, Vol. 14, 1539, p. 314/5.

## Our Contributors

THEODORE NICHOLSON, T.D. (1946), F.S.A. (1956).

Member of Helmsley R.D.C. and of Bilsdale Hunt Committee. President of Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society. Vice-President of Sunderland Antiquarian Society. Chairman of the Helmsley Group of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Hobbies: archaeology, architecture, gardening, books, walking. ~~Currently~~ directing excavations at Dalden Tower, Seaham, Co. Durham, for Sunderland Antiquarian Society.

RICHARD JEFFREE.

Educated Harrow, spent part of his youth at Amotherby, near Malton. He has long studied English portraiture of the period 1660-1730, of which he has a representative collection. At present engaged upon a study of the woman painter, Mary Beale.

RAYMOND H. HAYES, M.B.E.

Born in ~~york~~ but has lived nearly all his life in Hutton-le-Hole. Became interested in archaeology in the 1930s, helping the late R. W. Crosland with his W.E.A. work. 1947 became correspondent to the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey (the Archaeology Officer of the O.S. said recently that he had sent in more information than anyone else in the country). Has acted in a similar capacity for the Ministry of Works since 1959 and has taken several hundred photographs of sites and finds in N. Yorks. Has taken part in many excavations, notably those of the local 'Windypits' between 1939 and 1960. Keen on hiking and skiing, plays piano and violin. Publications: 1948, with Sir E. N. Whitley, The Roman Pottery at Norton; 1955, with R. W. Crosland, Anglo-Saxon Crosses at Middleton Pickering; 1961, archaeology section and others in History of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District; 1963, with J. G. Rutter, Wade's Causeway; 1965, A Guide to Kirkby Moorside and District.

ARTHUR H. WHITAKER.

Native of Leeds and a teacher there since 1936. Became tenant of cottage in Farndale, 1954. Enthusiastic admirer of Ryedale. Friend of Raymond Hayes, who first kindled his zeal for archaeology. Currently engaged on excavation of Romano-British site at Spaunton, report of which will eventually appear in the Ryedale Historian.

BRYAN WAITES.

Lecturer in geography at Leicester and author of thesis and numerous articles on medieval land tenure, sheep-farming etc. At present in Australia, so no further details to hand.

A. L. PACITTO.

Brought up in Helmsley, founder member of the Helmsley Group. Has taken part in 'Windypit' and other local excavations, and since

1956 has worked freelance for the Ministry of Works and other bodies as archaeologist and photographer, at numerous sites in England and Scotland, including York, Cirencester, Rudston, Winterton. Two years on technical staff of Archaeology Dept., Leicester University. Expert at lifting mosaic pavements and other ingenious techniques.

#### MRS. G. STAINTHORPE.

Born Liverpool, daughter of Dr. Rawdon-Smith, educated at St. Hilda's College, Oxford. Interests: medieval history of N.E. Yorks. and local pre-history. Discovered Glaisdale flint-knapper's site. Large collection of palaeolithic items from this site.

#### CYRIL KING.

Born Co. Durham, came to live in Helmsley at the age of 10. Educated Lady Lumley's, Pickering, and Nautical Academy Newcastle, entering Merchant Navy in 1930. Ex-Master Mariner and Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Now on staff of Black Swan Hotel. Since leaving the sea (1949), has become an authority on the flora of Ryedale, and in the last decade has made a detailed study of North Yorkshire Churches. The present series on Ryedale is the result of several hundred visits to local churches and a vast accumulation of notes and sketches.

#### JOHN McDONNELL.

Member of lay teaching staff at Ampleforth College, occasional broadcaster, joint editor of school text-book on Spanish-American history, editor for Helmsley Group of Y.A.S. since 1960. In theory more concerned with history than archaeology, but tends to find himself trenching archaeological sites when he should be digging his own garden.

#### J. H. RUSHTON.

(See first issue; his article for this number had to be held over for lack of space). Born Luton, entered R.N. at 16, several years in factories, then studied at University College and London School of Economics as 'adult student'. B.Sc. (Econ.). W.E.A. Organising Tutor in N.E. Yorks., lectures in sociology and history. Main interest is in the evolution of the landscape. Writes regularly for Scarborough Mercury and other publications. Author of a social and commercial history of Scarborough, guide to Kirkby Moorside Church, The Snainton Story (with W.E.A. class). Currently writing a history of Brompton by Sawdon and a historical survey of Public Houses in N.E. Yorks.

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"THE OLD MILL BY THE STREAM"

Time was when every parish had its mill, driven by wind or water; in Ryedale, with its frequent and reliable streams, usually the latter. Sometimes, besides the corn-mill, a second, 'walk-mill' was needed, to operate trip-hammers for fulling woven cloth, where, as in this area, a cottage weaving industry flourished.

Now that, whether we like it or not, the old mills no longer grind our flour or full our homespun cloth, they are rapidly vanishing from the landscape, along with horse and ox ploughs, waggons, the pinfold, the pillory, and even the village ale-house as our grandfathers knew it.

Sentiment apart, these mills have for centuries been a vital element in the country's economy, and before they are all obliterated from the English scene, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, (55, Great Ormond Street, London W.C.1) is encouraging local societies to co-operate in a national survey of water-mills and known mill sites.

Will you help? If you live in or near Ryedale, the Helmsley Group is undertaking responsibility for the local survey, and the Editor, (1, Church St., Helmsley, York.) will welcome any offers of co-operation. There is a detailed questionnaire for each mill, covering every aspect - date, water-supply, construction, machinery, etc. - but any information at all will be helpful. If you are prepared to collect information for one or more mills in your vicinity, the Editor can supply copies of the questionnaire. Readers outside the Ryedale area who are interested in the survey could most usefully get in touch direct with the Society at the address given above.

ANOTHER BYLAND FISHPOND

The account of the 'waterworks' of Byland Abbey printed in the first issue of the Ryedale Historian needs augmentation in at least one respect. Miss D. A. Cleverly of Oswaldkirk has pointed out to the authors of the article that in addition to the large fishpond between Scencliff Grange and Oldstead Grange there was an upper pond, feeding into the big one, to the north of Scencliff Grange. There are unmistakeable remains of a dam and sluice at grid. ref. SE 527797, and a rough survey of the land N.W. of this point shows that most of the area in the angle between River Road and River Head Road, almost to where the former joins the Oldstead - Kilburn road, would have been flooded, though to no great depth. This fact may incidentally help to explain the otherwise mysterious 'river' element in the names of these roads.

If, in addition, there was a further sizeable pond at the mouth of Cockerdale between Modes Bank and Oldstead Hall, it will be seen that the Abbey's system of ponds was even more elaborate than at first seems to be the case.

## MORE ABOUT CRUCK HOUSES

Publication of an article on whatever subject must be deemed to have partially failed in its purpose if it does not lead to criticism, correction when necessary, and the contribution of further information. I am therefore pleased to put on record some observations evoked by my article on cruck houses published in the first number of the Ryedale Historian, and also to add a few further notes.

First, doubt has been thrown upon my statement that the butt ends of the cruck blades were sunk a foot or so into the ground; instances have been quoted where the butts are indeed supported on stylobates, but I have assumed that these were introduced at a later date when perhaps the blade had become rotten at the foot. So far as I am concerned the matter remains in doubt.

Secondly, in connection with my quotation from the *Transactions of the Ancient Monument Society* to the effect that the Cumberland "clay-daubins" were completed in a single day, it has been pointed out that no one thatcher could complete his work on a house, however small, in the time available.

Thirdly, I am reminded that the blades were not invariably joined at their apex by a piece of wood known as the saddle; an alternative method was for the blades to be half-lapped at their apex and prolonged a short distance beyond the point of intersection, so forming a crotch in which the rigg-tree was laid.

A type of cruck house exists in this area, probably of later date than the medieval long-house, in which the cross passage does not occur; instances are Broadway Foot, Hawnby, and the old Seven Stars Inn, Sutton-under-Whitestonecliff. The first of these houses has adjacent rooms heated by back to back fireplaces in a central chimney-stack, and the main entrance originally opened onto a passage running parallel to the front wall, formed by the nearside wall of the stack and the speers of the two rooms. At the Seven Stars the front door opens onto a similar passage, here formed by the speer of the principal living-room.

My worst fears for Stangend, Danby, have been realised; it is now in an advanced stage of disintegration, but the witch-post has been rescued by Mr. Frank of Hutton-le-Hole, who intends to incorporate it in a reconstructed cruck cottage to be erected behind the Folk Museum.

Recent inspection of the Manor House, Harome leads me to the conclusion that like Oak Crag, the building has been truncated by demolition of the byres etc. at the north end; it would follow that the north wall is modern and that a cross passage existed on the south side of the northernmost pair of crucks.

Finally I must correct the statement in my article that the Star at Harome is of cruck construction; it is not.

Further comments and information on the subject would be gladly received.

THEODORE NICHOLSON

## THE RYEDALE FOLK-MUSEUM, HUTTON-le-HOLE

Have you visited the Ryedale Folk-Museum yet? If you haven't, it stands facing the village green, near the Post Office in Hutton-le-Hole, which is a few miles north of the A170 road between Kirkby Moorside and Pickering. Even if you have been there before, you may like to know that Mr. Bert Frank is still busy adding to his unique collection. He plans soon to reconstruct a cruck house in the yard behind the Museum, complete with the witch-post from Stang-end referred to above by Mr. Nicholson. But already Mr. Frank has reorganised part of the display since last season, so that in addition to special arrangements like the Blacksmith's Shop, there are now three new 'rooms' - a dairy, a farm-kitchen, and a bedroom with box-bed, 17th - 18th Century fireplace, and oak panelling from Stang-end.

Times of opening for the 1966 season:

March to November,  
2 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

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